

THE  
Test of Filial Duty.

IN A  
SERIES OF LETTERS

BETWEEN

Miss EMILIA LEONARD,

AND

Miss CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON.

A N O V E L.  
IN TWO VOLUMES.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N,

Printed for the AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY

T. CARNAN, at NUMBER SIXTY-FIVE,

in St. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

MDCCLXXII.

THE  
Treatise of Filial Duty.

IN A  
SERIES OF LETTERS

TO THE

Mrs. EMILIA LEONARD

AND

Mrs. CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON.

A NEW EDITION

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. II.

LONDON

Printed for the AUTHOR.

AND SOLD BY

T. CARRAN, at Number SIXTY-FIVE,

in ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

MDCCLXXII.





---

---

THE  
T E S T  
FILIAL DUTY, &c.

---

L E T T E R XXI.

Miss EMILIA LEONARD, to Miss  
CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON,

My dear, my ever kind CHARLOTTE,

**W**HAT terrors has your  
tendernefs suggested to  
your imagination! my fi-  
tuation will perhaps be forlorn, but  
not dreadful. My banishment from  
my friends will not be perpetual; and  
humanity is not alone confined to  
VOL. II. B them;

## 2 THE TEST OF

them; on the contrary, it no where flourishes as in Wales. Should I stand in need of those good offices, so delightfully performed by friends, I make no doubt but some charitable hand will in part supply their place. Wherever I shall reside, am I not equally under the protection of the best offriends? It would be criminal to doubt either his benevolence or power; therefore,

“ Myself with confidence and faith I  
trust,

“ To that sole Being, merciful and  
just;”

and cannot think that I am unfriended, unheeded. Conscious as I am, that there is one all powerful, who careth for me, how can I do other than commit myself to him in peace?

By



## FILIAL DUTY. 3

By the post-mark you will perceive I am on the road to my retirement ; but, as I know how tenderly you are interested for me, I will give you a circumstantial relation of all that has passed, since I finished my last letter.

My uncle arrived soon after I had closed it. My mamma took him into her dressing-room, and acquainted him with the occasion of their requesting his presence so suddenly. By some things she dropped, I guess he received the information somewhat in the same manner that you did ; but she talked him into patience ; and he consented not only to point out a proper place for my abode, but to conduct and fix me there. Three days were thought not too much to prepare our measures, and it was judged proper to delay my departure

#### 4 THE TEST OF

as little as possible, lest an amendment in Mr. Leonard's health, should enable him to leave his room; for his presence might expose us to some difficulties.

I need not attempt to describe to you the situation of my mind those three days; your imagination will paint it even in stronger colours than I should give. My dear mamma spent almost all the time in tears; nor did my eyes often forbear accompanying her, though I put the utmost force on myself to conceal my grief. The day before my departure it was given out, that my uncle had requested that I might go a short excursion with him, which, coming to Mr. Leonard's ears, he sent me such pressing intreaties, to vouchsafe him one short visit, that I could not refuse what, perhaps, was the last gratification



## FILIAL DUTY. 5

gratification I may ever give him; nor, I confess, resist my own desire to see him once more. Accordingly, in the evening, with an agitation of spirits that cannot be imagined, I went into his chamber, for the slow fever which still hangs upon him, has so consumed his strength, that he cannot, without the help of two persons, walk from his bed to his chair. He would have risen up, at my entrance, but was not able. I gave him my trembling hand, and sat down by him; but my too visible distress increased his, and it was some time before either of us broke silence. At length he mentioned the information he had received of my intended excursion.

I assumed all the resolution I could call to my aid; and treating that lightly, expressed a hope of finding him better at my return from my jaunt;



## 6 THE TEST OF

and, desirous of giving him some pleasure, acquainted him with the permission my father had kindly given me to refuse lord Wilton, of which Mr. Leonard had received no certain information, though from his lordship's departure, and other circumstances, that had been related to him, he had conceived hopes that it was so; and I added, that "I now could not doubt, after so great a proof of my father's indulgence, that he would always suffer me to continue single; which would certainly be my choice."

You will suppose this must occasion some sollicitations to wave this resolution in his favour. He urged the same offer he had made me before; but on my declaring warmly against such a step, he would have promised an inviolable constancy if I would leave the event to time; but, as receiving  
such

## FILIAL DUTY. 7

such a promise would have been acting disingenuously with my father, I stopped him, and insisted on his saying nothing more on that subject ; adding that, “ I must never consider him but in the “ light of a friend and a brother.” Much tender altercation ensued, but the conversation was ill supported on my side ; for the difficulty I found in commanding myself in so critical a juncture, made me fearful of every word I spoke. After passing near an hour with him, I took my leave. He asked me when he should see me again, I could no longer restrain my tears, but answering, that, “ as a sister he “ might always command me,” left his chamber, and hurried to my own, to give way to the violence of my emotions. To seem to wish what, in reality, is so contrary to my inclinations, cost me no little pain ; but I would not perform imperfectly the

## 8 THE TEST OF

great effort required of me, as I am sincere in my submission, and am far from meaning to amuse my father with only a specious appearance of duty, I thought it incumbent on me to intimate the only condition on which he might expect to see me again; and when he finds he has been deceived as to the cause of my leaving home, he will perceive a stronger meaning in what I said, than he might at first discover. I hope duty does not require me really to wish he may purchase my recall from banishment at such a price; If it does, I am very defective; for my heart by no means subscribes to what I endeavoured to hint to him; on the contrary, fear lest the measures in which I concur should prove successful, will be one of my greatest torments.

My

## FILIAL DUTY. 9

My mamma passed the night with me, which proved a sleepless one to both of us. Early in the morning I set out only with my uncle, it not being thought safe for me to be accompanied by a servant, as her secrecy must be precarious. After travelling a few miles; my uncle dismissed his attendants and equipage, and we proceeded on our journey in hired post-chaises. You cannot imagine any thing more kind than this good uncle's behaviour, he soothes, he encourages me with such tenderness, that I can scarcely forgive myself the dejection I cannot shake off, but I conceal it as much as possible; he sees me melancholy, yet the violence of my distress I hide from him, by confining it within my own breast; but in the night, when I am freed from restraint, it overpowers me. I perceive he thinks this whole proceeding both cruel and absurd; but



the evil he cannot prevent, he labours to mitigate ; and is contriving every means to alleviate the dulness of my solitude. My father has generously set no limitation to my expences ; he has promised to answer with pleasure every demand I can make ; in short, nothing is denied me but the essentials to my happiness. Fruitless generosity ! of what worth is all the rest to me. Having answered for my Charlotte's honour, I am permitted to acquaint her with the place of my retirement : I know I run no hazard therein ; for you value my friendship too much to forfeit it by a discovery of this secret to any one whatsoever ; but, as for your kind offer, my dearest of friends, I absolutely refuse it. I would not for the world rob your parents of such a daughter, nor could you without a criminal disregard to them, leave their roof, without declaring the place of  
your



## FILIAL DUTY. 11

your destination ; and this would be an absolute breach of the engagement I have entered into for your secrecy, and my own.

Wales is to be the place of my abode ; but I am too ignorant of that country to give you an intelligible account of what part of it : and since I am to be banished, I am pleased that it is among a people I have always highly honoured for their simplicity and honesty. As soon as I am arrived you may be assured of receiving a particular direction, since on that depends my hearing from you ; and, as the letters of my friends are the only pleasures I can hope, I know you will indulge me as often as possible. To the invention of posts alone it will be owing that I shall still feel myself an inhabitant of this world ; without it I

B 6 should

## 12 THE TEST OF

should not be a more forlorn stranger  
were I transported to the moon.

My uncle is up, breakfast is on the  
table, and the horses putting to the  
chaise, I must therefore add no more  
than my assurances, that however my  
person may be dragged about, far  
from every thing that is dear to me,  
there still remains with my Charlotte  
the tenderest affections of her

May 15,  
1769.

EMILIA LEONARD.

---

## L E T T E R XXIII.

From the SAME to the SAME.

**L**ITTLE merit can I plead in  
keeping my promise to my dearest  
friend, since regard to my word is less  
thought of by me, than the indulgence  
of my inclination in writing to her :  
promises

## FILIAL DUTY. 13

promises so agreeable are in little danger of being broken. We performed our long journey, much lengthened by our not travelling the direct road, without any ill accident, and in weather, that had not the sunshine of my mind been obscured by clouds that nothing could dissipate, must have rendered our journey extremely pleasant. My good uncle directed my observation to the brightness of the sky, pointed out beautiful prospects, and admired the softness of the southern breezes, which fanned us all the way; I assented, and forced out a few words of cold praise, but had no sense of any thing pleasureable. My eyes glanced unheedfully over the finest objects; and a November fog would scarcely have been distinguished by me from the sunshine which he rejoiced in. I was as insensible to all the charms of rural nature, as the sick man is to the wit of the

the

14 THE TEST OF

the scoffer, of whom Shakespear says,

“ T'enforce the pained impotent to  
“ smile !

“ To move wild laughter in the throat  
“ of death !

“ It cannot be, it is impossible ;

“ Mirth cannot move a soul in agony.”

The first thing that sufficiently attracted my attention to give me any pleasure, was the account we received at the first inn we lay at in Wales, of the inhabitants of a large mansion, which we had passed just before we arrived at the inn. The natural beauties of the place, the improvements it had received from art, and the very excellent order it was kept in, induced my uncle to enquire by whom it was inhabited.

The landlord told us it belonged to Sir Owen ap Griffith, who had very  
in



early in life been placed in the army, while a younger brother. He served abroad several years in the most disagreeable stations, and was engaged in the most dangerous expeditions in the two last wars; for, though by his elder brother's death he succeeded to the family title and estate, a very considerable one, yet he would not quit the army, but having first entered into it to serve his own interests, thought it incumbent on him to remain in it in order to serve his country: but happily, as it must be deemed, before the end of the last war he met with ill treatment. A much younger officer, a man of suspected courage, bad morals, and weak intellects, being promoted over his head, for no other merit than his noble connexions, being a man of quality. Sir Owen however suppressed his resentment till the peace was made, and threw up his commission, in a manner that



that forced a blush from those who had injured him.

He had been married several years, to a lady whose beauty had charmed him, and whose virtues justified his choice, and had brought him a family which confirmed his happiness. To this mansion they retired, wearied with busy scenes, and surfeited with fashionable life; averse to crouds, but fond of society. Sir Owen is near fifty years old, Lady ap Griffith forty-three. They have five sons and three daughters, all worthy of their parents, and sharers with them in the esteem and affection of almost this whole principality, for they have a very extensive acquaintance. Their estate is about three thousand pounds a year, and Lady ap Griffith's fortune having been, on their marriage, settled upon younger children, and suffered to accumulate, the interest

interest never having been received, is already become a handsome provision for the younger children, and is designed to continue encreasing as long as Sir Owen shall live, except for such as shall by marrying have immediate occasion for their share. Thus to the future baronet is secured an unincumbered estate; and the family now enjoy an income which, in this cheap country, is greatly affluent, and well spent by them. They give nobly and judiciously; distress, if not criminally incurred, ever meets from them with relief; modest merit is sure of encouragement. As far as their observation can reach, virtue never pines in wretchedness, nor are talents lost to the possessor and the world for want of opportunities of entering into action: they feel more delight in delivering them from the oppressive load of poverty, by which the finest talents are

## 18 THE TEST OF

no doubt often totally obscured, and introducing them into occasions of improvement and use, than ever the miner did in discovering the brightest gem. In their house still exists the hospitality of ancient times, and the distressed are always sufficiently qualified to meet with a favourable reception there.

Their house is very spacious, and generally well filled. They have a numerous acquaintance, and their visits are seldom short. It is usual with them to have about a dozen at a time of different sexes and ages, and their society is regular without formality. Except during the time of breakfast they never meet in a morning. Each pursues separately his or her respective inclinations. The ladies chiefly in their own apartments, in which they may be well provided with amusements from

Sir

## FILIAL DUTY. 19

Sir Owen's large library, amply stocked with great variety of well-chosen books on every subject, with globes, maps, telescopes, microscopes and camera obscuras. The gentlemen are accommodated with every convenience for the moderate enjoyment of field sports. The afternoons are dedicated to society. Riding and walking, little expeditions to the romantic spots with which this country abounds, where Lady ap Griffith previously sends tea, fruit, and cream, or some other rural refreshment, usually employ their summer evenings when the weather will permit. In winter, or wintry weather, the younger part of the company form little balls; while those of a less nimble age amuse themselves with being spectators of their mirth, or playing at cards in the same room; and if by extraordinary chance, there happens to be any deficiency of numbers among the young, Sir Owen  
and



and his lady, and others by their example, will join in the dance, rather than their youthful guests and family should lose their entertainment. Sometimes they have little concerts, when their most musical friends are with them; at others the young people act Shakespear's tragedies, after the pieces have undergone from Sir Owen any necessary corrections, who can expunge whole scenes if he thinks proper, without fear of the critic's lash. These are the only plays they are permitted to act; and some persons who have been great frequenters of the best theatres have said, that although they had sometimes seen one or two characters in a play more exquisitely performed than by this little company, yet, on the whole, they never saw any representation so pleasing, as every part is well done.

After



## FILIAL DUTY. 21

After supper the conversation is always general, no separate parties being allowed to divide the young from the old, and, by doing so, rob them of the advantage they must gain, by the conversation of the more experienced and judicious. After dinner the same opportunities of improvement are given them.

Thus pass the gay hours in this happy family, where mirth and amusements are never suffered to interfere with the exercise of religious duties. Morning and evening prayers are read there by the minister of the parish, a most worthy man, in whom the purity and cheerfulness of a good christian are united, and who is married to a relation of Sir Owen's, a very good and sensible woman, who brought him such a fortune as renders their circumstances easy. This family live within three hundred

hundred yards of the baronet's house, and generally share their society. Part of every Sunday is dedicated to the instruction of the servants, and the children of the neighbouring poor. These are their public religious exercises, but their private ones are more numerous; Lady ap Griffith and her daughters watch over the poor with maternal care, and supply all their real wants; to the sick and indigent, they give relief; to the young and ignorant, instruction. As much as possible they furnish all ages with employment, and take every means of inspiring them with the spirit of industry. Sir Owen, for his part, uses all the power his office of justice of the peace, and superior fortune give him, to preserve the people in sobriety; and such public-houses as are necessary, he obliges to observe the rules of temperance and regularity.

On

## FILIAL DUTY. 23

Do not these people understand life? Their pleasures are justified by reason, and sanctified by religion; they enjoy amusements without coquetry or scandal; exercise without fatigue; repose without stupidity; and with them improvements may be gained without being exposed to the seductions of vice. Can there be an happier lot? I confess my imagination can represent none to me so eligible. Had it been my fortune to be placed in the neighbourhood of this family I think I should have felt less severely my banishment from home; but I am fixed some days journey beyond it; and you will expect to know where, yet from me can receive little other satisfaction than that it is in Cardiganshire. The nearest town is — but that is several miles distant. The mistress of the house where I am, was formerly well known, to my uncle, being  
daughter

daughter to a rich farmer in his neighbourhood, and, by marrying a Welchman, became transplanted hither. She seems a very careful good sort of woman, and on that account was pitched upon by my good uncle. Her husband is Steward to Mr. —— and lives in the mansion-house, the owner never coming hither. This is a very agreeable circumstance to me, as I have a spacious apartment, though somewhat dismal and uncouth; all the light I receive is through small casements. The furniture was originally suited to the simplicity of the country, and is not mended by age, for it has seen many years; I do not believe there is any thing in the house that is less than an hundred years old; but it is all very clean.

The country around is beautifully wild. Every thing here is in a great style;



stile : I shall hence forward look on the middle part of England as the miniature of nature. Here she appears in all her grandeur, and majesty more than compensates for the want of those nice and delicate touches, which are observable in countries formed on a smaller scale. Wales should be the habitation of giants, and England their parterre. In my natural state of spirits this country would have a thousand charms for me ; but the stupendous is not so salutary as gayer scenes, to the present temper of my mind. I believe I do not feel much less forlorn than the mariner when cast on a desert coast ; and the wild face of nature adds some degree of horror to my melancholy ; I could almost fancy every rock inhabited by a Polypheme, and dread the fate of Ulysses's companions.

My good uncle, however, is desirous that I should have every possible means of amusement within the house. He has contrived to have an harpsichord conveyed hither; I brought with me all the necessaries for drawing and painting; and some books; he will send me more; you know he has always directed my studies, and will now supply me with the means of pursuing them. My landlady has recommended a very pretty young woman to me for a servant; whose innocent simplicity, and good-natured desire to oblige, will make ample amends for any little awkwardnesses which, through ignorance of her business, she may be guilty of. I never was accustomed to be much waited upon, and here can have no occasion for the skill of an Abigail, as I have no temptation to dress. No one would undergo the painful hand of the friseur to recommend her person

## FILIAL DUTY. 27

son to goats or goat-herds. Clean linen, neatly put on, will content me; and I have no one but myself to please. The natural tendernefs of the poor girl's heart, inspires her with a sympathy that soothes my melancholy; she echoes my sighs, and when I weep can scarcely restrain her tears. I fear they will force their way to-morrow, as mine will certainly flow most copiously, for my dear uncle will then leave me, and I shall feel entirely forlorn and desolate.

I have just learnt a most mortifying particular, which shews me this place is still more savage than I imagined it. On making inquiries about the post, from which all my future pleasures and comforts must flow, I am told that the distance from the post town is so great, that it will be impossible for me to have any communication with

## 28 THE TEST OF

it much oftener than once in a month. This is a shock which no one who has not been in the same situation, removed to a very great distance from all her friends, and loving those friends with the utmost excess of tenderness, can imagine. The source of the only pleasure I hoped for is cut off from me; or so nearly, that it will not serve for a consolation. My spirits cannot be kept up for twenty-nine days, by expectation of the kind notice of my friends on the thirtieth. I shall then owe the blessing to a great monthly market at ———, which draws together all the people of the county, some to sell and others to buy. If money could purchase me the means of a more frequent communication, I could remove this evil with a safe conscience; I should not think what I so spent was extravagantly lavished on myself, since it would be dedicated to the

the



## FILIAL DUTY. 29

the service of the most necessitous person in the world; for the wretch must indeed be on the very verge of starving, to whom food or raiment could give the joy that letters from my friends would bring to me; but it seems the general post not coming to ———, the private bag, which brings letters there, comes only on this general market-day; the good people in this neighbourhood, having so few correspondencies, that it would not pay the expence of the messenger, to bring them more frequently. Had I known this, I would have begged to have been placed any where rather than in this savage spot. But this is too late. Whoever comes hither should pass Lethe instead of the Severn. Could I forget you all, I might at least be insipidly easy, and to be free from the pains of regret would be consummate happiness in comparison to what I  
C 3 feel.

30 THE TEST OF

feel. But in joy or sorrow believe me  
my dearest Charlotte ever

May 24, Most affectionately your's,  
1769.

EMILIA LEONARD.

---

L E T T E R XXIV.

Miss CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON to Miss  
EMILIA LEONARD.

**M**UST I then hear from my  
Emily but once in a month!  
cruel girl! to forbid my accompanying  
you to your solitude. You could not  
surely have done it, had you known  
how very little intercourse could pass  
between us! What rest can my mind  
know during such long intervals of  
ignorance? Numerous are the evils  
that may pass in the space of a month;  
and however necessary the presence of  
a friend

## FILIAL DUTY. 31

a friend may be to you, to procure it would take almost as much time as to travel to the antipodes. Surely throughout the British dominions, the Dean could not have found out another place so savage; where else could you have been cut off from all commerce with your friends? So tenderly as he has always seemed to love you, how can he himself support it? Will not his heart sicken before the monthly intelligence from his darling arrives? But perhaps his patience is sufficient for every trial; I know all his virtues are of the first magnitude; but I wish some people were less good, or that I were more so; in either case I should be better satisfied with their measures. But alas! the distance between them and me is great; I know not when we shall meet; I believe the work must be theirs, I should be an age in creeping up to them, they might fall to me  
in

in a moment; nothing so easy. But all this is little to the purpose, you will rather wish to hear a little about your friends.

Poor Mrs. Leonard, not being quite so good, as those very good folks I want to pull down, was not able to support, with any degree of real fortitude, the loss of her sweet girl. Though she assumed an air of patience and composure, the struggle in her heart reduced her, in about a fortnight after you were gone, into a state of extreme melancholy. Your father, alarmed at her situation, wrote to my mamma, requesting us to join our endeavours with his to alleviate his wife's distress. We obeyed the summons the following day; staid near a fortnight, and had the satisfaction of leaving her pretty well recovered in health, and in much better spirits than we found her.

Perhaps



Perhaps you are equally anxious about a more distant relation ; but I must tell you, that I do not think you did your cousin justice in the description you gave me of him, though I then supposed the colours heightened by the varnish of prejudice. In person, conversation, manner, in short in every thing, I never saw his equal ; according to that extraordinary line, in no extraordinary poet, “ None but himself can be his parallel.” I wonder how Mr. Edmondbury can retain any interest in my heart, when I so plainly perceive the superiority of another man ; but I beheld Mr. Leonard as I do a Pyrocles or Musidorus in romance, a kind of imaginary Being, equally above my hopes, and therefore no object for my affections ; for love, at it’s first kindling, requires a little hope to fan the latent spark into a flame ; a great fire wants

# 34 THE TEST OF

no blowing ; even water will not easily extinguish it ; thus despair, the greatest of all dampers, will not always subdue a passion grown to it's full strength. Possibly, too, some difficulties which have arisen in the affair between Mr. Edmondbury and me, by animating my calm prepossession in his favour, had no small share in defending my heart against such superior merit, which I think must have been irresistible in the supine state of certainty wherein I had lived for some months ; security blunts one's sensations prodigiously. But no more of myself at present, for I have not yet done with Mr. Leonard ; nor, I fancy, will you wish to hurry me to any other subject.

The share of your friendship which I am so happy as to possess, procured me no small regard from your lover : his fever had quite left him ; but it's effects,

effects, some weakness of body, and a little langour of mind still remained, and gave him a delicacy not unpleasing, though, if constant, might be deemed too great in one of his sex. He took every opportunity of private conversation with me, that he might indulge himself in talking of our Emilia; and charmed me by the tenderness and delicacy of his sentiments. Indeed, my friend, though in a most desolate state, the companion of goats, or Beings little superior to them, you are a very fortunate woman; the society of such a man will greatly overpay several years of vexation. If Rachel were half as agreeable as Mr. Leonard, I do not think the patriarch had any reason to regret his long servitude, with the incumbrance of his bleared wife included. Your sufferings, I am persuaded, will have as happy a conclusion, for those who place their hopes

## 36 THE TEST OF

in your lover's inconstancy will certainly be disappointed. With the eyes of his understanding he sees your merit, and the sensations of his heart do it justice. His love is heightened and purified into adoration ; and though like Juba he says " Oh ! how divinely fair !" yet charms less frail seem to have captivated his whole soul ; and I firmly believe, that if he were not to see you again till you reach your grand climacteric, you would still find him an adoring and enraptured lover.

I wish you had heard how prettily, how justly, and pathetically, he represented to me the impossibility of his ever thinking of any other woman with tenderness, while his memory could preserve the least traces of your image, and your excellencies ; you must heroically have cried out, " Welcome  
" caves,



“caves, dens, rocks, and mountains;  
 “wild beasts, and savage men! every  
 “pain, every misery, that can be  
 “brought upon me by the tender affec-  
 “tions of such a man! such a cause  
 “must endear the effects.” Mr. Leonard, was very desirous on my first going to your father’s to learn from me what way you had bent your course in your excursion, and thought it strange that he had not been able to gain that information from your mamma. You may imagine he was still more surprized at receiving no satisfaction from me; and before I left the place grew extremely uneasy. He could no way account for this secrecy, nor form any certain cause for fear, yet was under great apprehension that something was not right. The truth never entered his thoughts; and indeed how should so strange a procedure find it’s way into the mind of a rational being? Reason, though assisted  
 by

### 38. THE TEST OF

by the anxious fears of the tenderest of lovers, could not devine it; but he frequently entreated me with such earnestness and tender anxiety, to tell him where you were, why it was concealed from him, and when you would return, that I was a thousand times on the very point of breaking my faith with you; and still wonder at my being able to preserve it. The command I then exerted over myself has convinced me that my fidelity is equal to every trial; and has given me such confidence, that I shall hereafter look down with contempt on the greatest part of our babbling sex: experience of one's own strength is apt to make one despise the weak, and I am so much puffed up by the conquest I gained over myself, when so persuasively attacked, that I am convinced the grave only can equal me in secrecy.

Miss

Miss Sophia seems very well disposed towards her cousin; she makes frequent attempts to coquet with him, but to little purpose; when she languishes, he repels her kind glances with the most freezing looks; if she jests and laughs, he hears her with a countenance more suitable to the chief mourner at a funeral, than to a young man whom a pretty girl is endeavouring to allure. Her minauderies are all lost upon him; he does not even see that she is rendering herself ridiculous by her attempts to charm; and her mirth meets with the solemn reception which he would give to a sermon; only with sometimes an air of disgust, added to gravity. Her vanity is piqued, but her heart is not mortified; for it is quite out of the question. She plainly considers him in no other light than as a man, and consequently a Being to coquet with. She is provoked

at

at his insensibility, but has not one tender sensation towards him. She asked me, "if I did not think him *immensely* "stupid; for her part, she could not "see what her papa and mamma admired in him so *infinitely*; a mere "mope, without sentiment, vivacity, "the usages of the world, or discernment enough to prefer a young woman to her grandmother." If an ape clad in lace and embroidery, were to come in her way, I am persuaded she would give him the preference to her most amiable and accomplished cousin. But what can the poor girl do? She is really very much to be pitied; the call of hunger is not more keen than her natural appetite to coquetry, and he is the only possible object. Her vanity is condemned to a severe famine; the pangs of which are increased by seeing such pretty food before her, and yet not able to obtain it.

## FILIAL DUTY. 41

it. She is sensible Mr. Leonard paid more regard to you than to her, yet is not absolutely jealous, because she thinks it impossible a man should prefer any one to her sweet self, but attributes the difference in his behaviour to his seeing you are less dangerous, and have less right to form expectations from one of his sex, therefore civility to you was sans consequence. How ingeniously can vanity flatter itself! I have heard, with astonishment, her hints of the superiority of her beauty. Were there no mirrors in the world, I should not wonder she formed her opinion of her person from the idea her imagination suggested; but every looking-glass she consults might set her right; and, if they failed, Mr. Leonard's eyes might convince her; but her conceit is unconquerable. She creates some amusement to herself from his reveries, and indeed more than once seduced



## 42 THE TEST OF

duced me into sharing her mirth ; she will play a thousand monkey tricks, which he never sees, ask him a thousand questions which he never hears, and by teizing draw an assent from him to the greatest absurdities, when, bursting into a loud laugh, she rouses him, properly speaking, “ like a rattling peal of “ thunder :” he stares with amazement, and is not easily convinced that she has either asked him any questions, or forced any reply from him, till the scene really becomes comic. Indeed he has the art of carrying his mind the farthest from the company, of which his person makes a part, of any one I ever saw ; and it is often a long time before his mind can be brought back to a body, from which it would be pity to have it disengaged. I, who guessed his thoughts were gone post after you, never wondered they were so long returning home ; but she, who did not suspect what an  
ignis.

## FILIAL DUTY. 43

ignis fatuus he was pursuing, considers it as a defect in his intellects, and asked me very seriously one day, if I did not think her cousin a little wrong in his head? I told her, by the gravity of her countenance, I imagined she felt herself a good deal interested in it. "Possitively, said she, so I am; he is, "you see the only person I have to "converse with; and should he go "melancholy mad, which seems what "he is inclined to, it would be *immensely* "dull; a little wildness, or even a little raving, might be comical enough, "and afford me an *infinity* of amusement in the country." Do you not admire her taste and her sentiments? Yet she piques herself on being sentimental. I told her I thought melancholy madness would be most favorable to her, and I made no doubt but many of the inhabitants of Bedlam sported sentiments *immensely* well. She turned from.

#### 44 THE TEST OF

from me in disdain, and has never since condescended to impart to me her suspicions of the insanity of her cousin's mind. I am so far of her opinion, that I will not answer for his intellects, when he finds how you have been kidnapped. An odd kind of an elopement your's! with a reverend Dean and Uncle: never before did a girl run away with so sober a companion. The good man intends, then, to console you for the loss of an amiable lover, by the elaborate productions of philosophers and historians. I hope he will send you Mr. Boyle on seraphic love; I fancy you must be in a good disposition for such studies. Indeed the object of your's is as nearly seraphic as any mortal can be. Or does the Dean imagine goat's milk as sure a cure for love as for some other distempers? If so, it is hard Mr. Leonard should not have his share of the remedy; but, possibly,

possibly, he thinks the blandishments of a coquet may be a better specific. If such is his notion, I am convinced he will soon find himself mistaken; and learn, that though so reverend a Divine may, for the soul, be a very good physician, he little understands the method of treating a love-sick heart.

I may possibly have raised in you a little curiosity about my affairs, which I shall endeavour to satisfy. Lady Mary Belmour, who was in France at the same time with Mr. Edmondbury, was pleased to conceive a violent passion for him, while he either did not discover it, or pretended blindness, and thereby neither encouraged nor depressed the lady's hopes, who had, it must be confessed, a tolerable foundation whereon to build the most flattering expectations. Lady Mary is about twenty-five years old, a woman

46 THE TEST OF

man of merit, and in person not plain enough to disgust, nor handsome enough to charm. By what I am told it is such, as, where there are other articles of value, may be thrown in without either adding to the weight of the scale, or diminishing the worth of the purchase. Thus far, you see, she is no very formidable rival ; but, alas ! she has in present a larger fortune than I have in reversion, beside the too flattering circumstance of her rank. These have so dazzled Sir Edward, that he is grown blind to my merit ; his sight is totally perverted ; all those future acres he so much admired have lost their charms, the grass appears withered, the corn blighted, the fairest meadow he esteems no better than a bog, and the good arable land he scorns as if it were mere stubble ; and les beaux yeux de ma cassette have lost all their brilliancy.

I

But



## FILIAL DUTY. 47

But I tell my story ill ; I should have proceeded to say, that, Lady Mary returned into England in a fortnight after Mr. Edmondbury, and, hearing he was engaged in addresses to another woman, thought it necessary to make a short truce with female decorum. She acquainted a relation, who had been her guardian, with her sentiments ; and though he would have wished her established equal to what her rank and fortune entitled her, yet, finding her affections so deeply interested, he proposed the affair to Sir Edward, from whom it could not fail of meeting with a joyful acceptance. His son, however, did not receive it in the like manner ; he pleaded prior engagements, and has not yet been prevailed upon to give them up. He still vows love and constancy ; but I leave you to guess whether they are likely long to hold out against paternal

48 THE TEST OF

nal authority, the suggestions of interest, and the persuasives of vanity ; which must be gratified, not only with Lady Mary's rank, but with so evident a proof of her strong attachment to him ; small signs of which he imagines he sees in me. Indeed I did not thoroughly know my sentiments towards him till this affair brought me to question with my own heart ; and and were I now to alter my behaviour he might naturally attribute the change to pride rather than affection ; and I am not sure there may not be something of that in it, for I think I can still say,

If there's a joy in love, 'tis when I  
see,  
That heart which others sigh for, sigh  
for me.

It

It is certain I never discovered that Mr. Edmondbury was possessed of so much beauty, wit, good sense, and amiableness of disposition; in short, I never saw his virtues or qualifications in so advantageous a light, as since I learnt the impression they have made on Lady Mary Belmour; and the danger I am in of losing him; but whether my pride or my affection is most strongly interested in that danger I cannot pretend to say; though, between ourselves, I think it is the latter; and therefore if you please to examine among your surrounding precipices, which is best suited for the lover's leap, if Lady Mary proves victorious, I may probably set out directly for your abode, and take that effectual means for the cure of a passion, which would sit very awkwardly on me, when accompanied with despair. My papa and mamma say I deserve this disappointment.

## 50 THE TEST OF

pointment. That may be, but I always hoped for a better lot than I deserve; and shall be sensibly mortified if I do not obtain it. How could I foresee that so forcible an attack would be made on my lover? I supposed the man might at least be left to offer himself; and though it has turned out otherwise, I cannot repent; for if before marriage he does not love me well enough to stand this trial, how little reason is there to believe he could have resisted any temptation, after such a damper to the tender passion as marriage usually proves? Then, should I conquer, how great will be my triumph! all my scruples, my delicacies, or, if you please, my whims, will be satisfied; my heart will be the certain purchase of his; and if gratitude and affection can reward his constancy, he shall not repent the preference he has given me. But will he  
give

## FILIAL DUTY. 57

give me that preference? Alas! I rather fear; in that case, however, reason will tell me, he is not worth regretting; but I suspect I shall deal as generously with him as I expect to be dealt with; and do more than he deserves; though vanity will whisper that he does not merit

June 2, Your most tenderly affectionate  
1769.

CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON.

---

## L E T T E R XXV.

Miss EMILIA LEONARD, to Miss  
CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON.

My ever dear CHARLOTTE,

**A**N appellation not less sincere for being seldomer repeated; seldom repeated by my pen at least; for my heart terms you so hourly; and

D 2

perhaps



perhaps is more indefatigable in whispering it's tender sensations, for being deprived of the means of addressing them to you with the former delightful frequency. I shall not obey your commands of seeking out a proper precipice from whence you may take the lover's leap, till I see you in a more desperate state: from the manner wherein you treat this affair, I really fancy goat's milk may prove a sufficient cure for such a passion as your's; though I suspect you are only putting the best face on your present situation; and, in the malefactor's style, determined to die hard; for I do not believe you so easy on the subject as you pretend; or that your prepossession in Mr. Edmond-bury's favor is so very inconsiderable; but, having brought yourself into this scrape, pride will not suffer you to own how deeply interested you are in the event. I perfectly agree with Mr. and

Mrs.

Mrs. Arlington, that you deserve to lose a man you have so idly trifled with; but I no less warmly join with you, in hoping you will not receive the disappointment you deserve.

You were very kind in being so loquacious on a subject on which my family preserve a total silence. I have received the kindest letters that parental affection could dictate from my father, my mother, and uncle, but no mention of Mr. Leonard. One would imagine they think nothing but the repetition of his name could preserve him in my memory. Alas! I have a more faithful, and more diligent remembrancer than their pens could be, were they to write of nothing else. To hope that I should forget him, or think of him with indifference, is absurd; I must lose all sense of merit before I can do the latter; and, while my memory has

## 54 THE TEST OF

the power of retension, he cannot lose his place in it. But that shall give them no cause of uneasiness, as it shall not render me unhappy. I use a term, that may to many appear too positive, but I am persuaded is not so. The powers of the mind are great; the weakness we often charge on them is in the will; they appear weak, because we do not force them to exert their strength, but deem unconquerable what we have never tried to conquer. I will not promise to feel no pangs at being so unnecessarily removed from the object of my sincerest regard; nor even to reflect, without pain, through the whole course of my life, on being forbidden the society of a man as eligible in the eye of reason, as in that of affection; I shall, no doubt, be less happy than if such a sacrifice had not been required of me; but there are many degrees between happiness and misery. Had it

## FILIAL DUTY. 55

it pleased Providence to deprive me of sight or hearing, would it have been wise, or even justifiable, to spend my days in lamenting the misfortune, instead of endeavouring to alleviate it? My parents are a kind of subordinate Providence to me; — it is my duty to submit to their will; and it shall be my endeavour to perform my part the most to their satisfaction, and my own ease. How few people can, in this world, possess every thing they desire! and if they could, how often would they find the satisfaction resulting thence, fall short of their expectation! I have more than a common share of blessings: how inexcusable should I be were I to lose my sense of them, in regretting that which is denied me! My heart will feel it; but its sensations shall be directed by reason, not by passion; my regrets, though tender, shall not be impatient; I will cultivate



my taste for every blessing I can attain, and endeavour to enjoy them with gratitude, drawing no comparisons between what is allowed, and what denied me. I might as reasonably refuse to go to an opera, from a disgust at not being able to hear the music of the spheres. It will not, I believe, be henceforth possible for any man to please me; *there* I shall not be able to forbear a comparison, which must prevent their making any impression on my heart; but this may be no loss; I do not think they always contribute to the happiness of our sex.

“Whole years neglected, for some months adored,

“The fawning servant turns a haughty lord.”

But every other means of rational happiness is within my power, and I will  
not



not neglect even the smallest innocent amusement that shall fall in my way. These are the flowers strewed in our paths, and worth gathering, though not substantially valuable; and if the pursuit of them does not attract us out of the right road to happiness, they may serve to amuse us on our road, and keep the mind alive through some dull and dreary passages.

Being fixed in this resolution, by calm reflexion, to which my quiet retirement is a friend, you will not be surprized that I endeavour to make the best of my present forlorn situation; but, in truth, except my father really had that favorable opinion of goat's milk, which you are inclined to suppose, he could not have found out a worse place than this, to cure the mind of a too tender prepossession. Were I disposed to act the part of a despairing

love-sick girl, I am placed in the most favorable spot imaginable. Such caves to sigh and mourn in ! such pretty rivulets to swell with my tears ! such shady groves to sooth my melancholy, and trees whereon to carve my lover's name ! This country is too well formed for soft contemplation ; indeed I find it dangerous to my resolution of not giving way to regret and melancholy ; for I never go out to walk, but I soon perceive myself in some spot, such as one would imagine formed purposely for the retirement of a despairing maiden. Possibly you will laugh at me if I tell you, that when I find myself reduced into any indulgence of too tender sentiments, I climb up one of the highest of the neighbouring mountains, steep and craggy, sufficient to conquer the most obstinate reverie ; or go to the edge of a cascade, whose roaring confounds all one's senses.

Reading.

## FILIAL DUTY. 59

Reading, painting, and music engage my thoughts at home. The length of my days, as no part is spent in that great consumer of time talking; allows me leisure for each of them. I have drawn views of several adjacent places: nothing can be more favorable for a lover of the pencil; almost every spot is picturesque; and I think the boldness with which nature has here marked every stroke, will much improve the freedom of my hand. Salvato Rosa's wildest designs are mignonne and finical to some places in this neighbourhood; but they have at least as great share of the horrible as the beautiful in them, and are the last I shall copy; for as Michael Angelo's choice of exciting as much horror as admiration, has always lessened my regard for him as a painter, so I should blame myself for selecting the terrible, when so many more pleasing scenes offer themselves

my pencil. When I have tired myself with copying these, I may be tempted, from respect to the stupendous, to make the others my subjects, and possibly insert you in the piece, in the very action of performing your intended lover's leap. As the best season for this amusement will soon be over, I seldom fail taking some view every day. Thus I get a great deal of air; and, at the same time, keep my mind employed, which I trust with as few moments of reflection as possible. In fine weather I pass little time in the house: I have put up a great many seats, and tables to each, and not only draw, but read abroad. I have even become the scholar of a poor man, in the neighbourhood, on the Welch harp, because it is an instrument I can have brought to me in the fields; and I assure you I have made some proficiency upon it. My master plays well, though  
he

he never thought of setting up for a teacher, and is not less pleased with the honour, than the profit of the employment; I mean the honour done to his art. In other respects, he would hold me cheap; for indeed a German noble, with his seize quartiers, would make but a despicable figure here, where the most humble deduce their pedigree in a direct line from Noah.

When the weather is not fine enough for me to sit long in the open air, I take my little Abigail to walk with me, and make her teach me Welch, which I facilitate, by giving a little time to the study of a Welch grammar and dictionary, that my uncle, at my desire, has sent me, with two or three books in the same language. My chief view in this, as in every other of my employments, was to keep my mind busy. No fine gentleman or lady ever took  
more



## 62 THE TEST OF

more pains to exclude thought. As I find it impossible to prevent the subject I would avoid from intruding, I give myself so little leisure to think, that I cannot expect to receive much benefit from what I read; but I shall be the happier, if not the wiser, for this care; and, after all, what promotes real happiness is true wisdom. As I rise before five o'clock, and do not go to bed till eleven, you may perceive my days are of sufficient length for every call I can have on my time, though I assure you I never find them too long. That I may not read totally without reflexion, I frequently write observations on the passages that strike me most, as I find it the best method of fixing my attention, and preventing my thoughts from straying to a less proper subject. As my extraordinary leisure allows of it, without materially interrupting any other employment, it may have it's uses, by teaching

teaching me to think with more order and precision ; and, at the same time, improve my stile.

The blood of the Ap-Shenkins, and Cadwalladers would rise in resentment against me, did they know that I had so long omitted telling you that I have neighbours. The church is two miles off, which will be a great inconvenience in winter, but at present I can reach it ; and there I excited the curiosity of a family of some figure in the country, who perceived I was a stranger ; and a stranger in this part of the world is a very strange thing indeed, as I suppose no such appears much oftener than once in a century. I have made my dress as conformable as I can to my rural situation. I wear nothing but night-gowns ; and my head-dress is a little round cap, unornamented, and simple ; no plaiting or puffing have I about

## 64 THE TEST IOE

about me; no scollops, chevaux de frize, nor any of those redundancies; my ruffles are short, and my aprons unfurbellowed, desirous of attracting as little notice as possible; but yet I did not escape the observation of this family. The first Sunday they only stared; but in the course of the week found means of making enquiries about me. The next curtesied; and in the succeeding days renewed their enquiries; and not conceiving the worse opinion of me from the answers they received, ventured to speak the Sunday following; and before the expiration of the week came to visit me. The master of this family, Mr. Evan ap Rees, is very sickly, and a little surly; but neither the health or ease of Mrs. ap Rees's mind or body, seem ever to have suffered interruption. She is of a very uncommon height for a Welsh woman, for they are usually short, but

I do

## FILIAL DUTY. 65

I do not believe she wants above an inch of six feet. Her width is more than proportionable; though she uses her best endeavours to confine it within moderate dimensions, and thereby raises her shoulders up to her ears; and her neck is thrust up so close to her chin, that I think it would be a difficult task to get an handkerchief in between them; and that may be the reason she does not attempt it, for she wears her's open to the very top of her stays, and exhibits what one can compare to nothing but mount *Ætna*. The colour indeed cannot be concealed, for, though her handkerchief is of thick cambrick, the vivid hue of that part of her neck which is under it, makes it appear many shades deeper than the fashionable rose-pink. There is certainly great regularity of proportion in her person, for her arms may vie with those of a gladiator; and vary in colour

lour from her neck only by a strong tinge of purple. I have heard faces compared to a full moon; but when first rising, and seen through the heated vapours of the thickest atmosphere, it would not merit the honour of being brought into comparison with her flaming countenance, which seems to be kept in a blaze by the fires that issue from the *Ætna* on which her chin rests. Her figure is properly crowned by a prodigious bush of the reddest hair I ever saw, parched into a frizzle, much admired by herself under the name of natural curling; and she swears by *St. Taffy*, as thinking it impossible otherwise to gain belief, that she never curls it; nor did she find me slow of faith, for I could see no traces of art in the extraordinary appearance. While I was beholding with astonishment this descendant, as I suppose, from *Gog* or *Magog*, whose  
ancestors



## FILIAL DUTY. 67

ancestors had fled to the shelter of these mountains with the ancient Britons, she encreased my surprize by addressing me with the squeak of master Tommy, or Nibble-bisket, in a puppet-shew; nor is this, I believe, affectation, but her natural voice.

This Dame has two daughters, young ladies; one of forty, the other thirty years of age, broad, squat figures both, with hair of the same colour as their mamma's, and flat, wide, jolly faces, much resembling the Bacchanalians so often placed as signs at a punch-house. Miss Winifrid, the eldest, is thought by her mother to have just reached woman's estate, but, as for poor Miss Goneril, her younger sister, the whole family seem so well convinced she is yet but in her infancy, that she is lucky in being suffered to walk without leading-strings. If one judged of their  
age

age by their height, one might, indeed, imagine them but just born, when one looks at their gigantic parent; for neither of them reach up to her elbow.

The son, the youngest of this family by a year, does her more credit; for he is above six feet high, and seems made in her very model, only by good fortune he has not inherited her squeaking pipe, for the bold thunder speaks in him; but Mrs. ap Rees says, "he was such a poor little puny child she could never trust him out of her sight, therefore had him bred at home, for it would have been inexcusable to have hazarded the life of the last of their branch of the ap Rees, and to have suffered a family to end in her, which had not wanted a male representative in lineal descent, since the year of the world, two thousand eight hundred and four." To which this

## FILIAL DUTY. 69

this hopeful stock, by way of appendix to his mother's speech, with a grin that would have well become the face of Polypheme, added, "Yes, Miss, you shall see our pedigree when you come to our hall." And to their hall I must soon go.

If it were possible for me to be more impatient than before for my monthly packets, I should be rendered so, by my anxiety to hear how your affair proceeds, and whether you have yet gained a victory over interest, vanity, and filial duty? Strong antagonists! Sir Edward makes but a dishonourable figure in this transaction. I am sure he does not deserve such a daughter-in-law as my sweet Charlotte. To what a fiery trial his son is exposed! I can scarcely excuse myself for not feeling more compassion for *him* than for *you*.

Continue,

70 THE TEST OF

Continue, my dear girl, to send me accounts of what passes in my family, or I suppose I shall be kept in painful ignorance. Let not your state of suspense drive from your thoughts your recluse, your sequestered friend, for to be banished from the world will not give half the pain to,

Your ever affectionate,

EMILIA LEONARD.

---

LETTER XXVI.

Miss CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON to Miss  
EMILIA LEONARD.

**W**AS there ever so provoking a girl! you do not deserve that I should add my mite towards amusing your solitude, since it has not taught you to feel for other's woes, to which  
melancholy

## FILIAL DUTY. 71

melancholy is most conducive. You think then that I merit my present state of suspense? What crime have I committed worthy of so great a punishment? Because I wished to be assured of the man's whole heart, should I therefore be doomed to lose him entirely? Surely, the desire was natural; I might, in my own opinion, say, laudable; but, perhaps, I now wish I had been rather less delicate; yet, if I do, my understanding blames the weakness of my heart, for I still, in my sober senses, approve my motive, though inclination, for I hate the word passion, is averse to the consequences. Do not suppose, however, that I am yet forsaken. Mr. Edmondbury still sighs and vows; and Sir Edward storms at his opposition. Lady Mary, I am told, sickens and languishes; how I perform my part I shall not say, that I may not present too deplorable a group



group to your imagination ; but I undergo the mortification of being frequently told, that my eyes have lost much of their fire, and my complexion of it's vermillion ; indeed I fear, “ que  
“ *bientot les lys l'emport'ront sur les*  
“ *roses.*” My parents are so much offended at Sir Edward's very unhandsome behaviour, that they declare, nothing should prevent their shewing their resentment, by forbidding his son their house, but the consequence they perceive he is of to my happiness ; and I believe they could not give a more painful proof of their tenderness for me, than by suffering his visits ; though they acknowledge that he is in no respect too blame. In truth I think he has nearly as great a share of their compassion as I have, for he seems much more unhappy : it is his part, you know, to shew, at least, *all* the uneasiness he feels ; female decorum obliges

obliges me as much as possible to conceal mine. He exculpates himself from ever having shewn more attention to Lady Mary than politeness rendered absolutely necessary ; nor did he suspect her of any tender regard for him. He declares a sincere esteem for her, but that she never could have excited in his heart any softer sentiments, even if he had not known me ; though probably in that case he might have complied with his father's commands, and contented himself with sacrificing all hopes of sublimer happiness, to the advantages of her alliance. It is said, that she much wishes no advances had ever been made on her side, for she is not ungenerous or indelicate enough to desire to controul Mr. Edmondbury's inclinations ; but Sir Edward will not give up the point ; and her relation insists on her adhering to the step he

took in compliance with her ill-fated passion. Thus entangled, she knows not how to extricate herself from the difficulties in which she is involved.

My situation is very untoward: generosity and justice oblige me to belie the dictates of my heart. Mr. Edmondbury is so entirely dependant on his mercenary and imperious father, that I can do no less than exhort him to obedience; whatever pangs the loss of him may give me, they will not be so severe as those I should feel from having been the cause of his ruin, for his happiness is of tenderer importance to me than my own. Were I in present, mistress of a large fortune, Sir Edward should have my free leave to disinherit his son; but, dependant as himself, I could not recompence him for such a sacrifice; and to see him reduced into a state of poverty  
and

## FILIAL DUTY. 75

and distress from affection to me, would be a shock that I think I could not survive. I continually intreat him to comply with his father's commands, but he declares he will sooner be deprived of his inheritance; for though he is sensible that he must then relinquish all hopes of possessing me, yet he shall still remain at liberty to cherish my idea, which will be far preferable to being united to a person who has every demand on his gratitude, his humanity, and generosity, but never can have any share of his affection; without which, the tenderness, the attentions she might so justly claim, would be more irksome than all the sufferings of poverty. There is more of love than of reason, I believe, in this way of thinking, and I combat it not only with all the rhetoric of words, but by the more persuasive eloquence of tears; and en-

## 76 THE TEST OF

deavour to prevail on him to spare me so cruel an affliction. But I suspect I attack him with arms that make against myself, for by the knowlege he has thus gained of my regard, he seems only more strengthened in his resolution of hazarding all extremities, rather than act in direct opposition to both his honour and his love.

I blame myself for the serious stile I have assumed, to one who I know will feel but too tenderly for me; and who has, alas! too much to feel for herself. You, perhaps, may deserve a little punishment from me, but it is ungenerous to inflict it on the unhappy, though you very sublimely deny yourself to be among that number; and if religion, good sense, and a vigorous, though mild, exertion of reason, can prevent one so situated from being unhappy, I am persuaded  
you



you are not ; but I ought not to increase the difficulty of your task, by imparting any sorrows of mine ; and I flatter myself you shall not soon find me again in the plaintive strain : you once told me, you believed “ I should “ jest if my heart were breaking,” that was rating indeed, my powers rather too high ; but I can at least suppress uneasiness ; and speak in light terms on subjects that make my heart heavy. So can you too, my sweet friend, when you talk so ludicrously of putting me into one of your landscapes, in the very action of performing that tremendous leap : — I hope, since you are so inclined to decorate your pictures with figures, you will place yourself as a love-lorn damsel, singing doleful ditties to her harp, in some of your most embowered scenes. Had any one in your situation, beside yourself, learnt on that instrument, I

should have supposed it was to indulge in some of the songs whose tunes so well suit the harp, as a lads that was laden with care, the bonny broom, farewell to Lochaber, &c. but according to your plan, I dare say you would sooner sing old Sir Simon the king, Hosier's ghost, or the King and the Abbot of Canterbury, than any of those tender ditties. I find that wherever you are, you must learn whatever is to be learnt, or you could never plague yourself with studying the Welch language. Such sounds never issued before through so pretty a mouth; for if we may judge by the modern Welch, the ancient Britons were not beautiful. As the family you describe seem to have no room for personal vanity, it is well they have got so lucky a supplement on which they pique themselves. The most honourable testimony that ever was borne

borne to any race, "that all the sons  
 "were brave, and all the daughters  
 "virtuous," should make people fear  
 a long genealogy, as such praise  
 could not well be deserved through a  
 very long descent. People who take  
 great pride in a long pedigree, appear  
 to me fearful of being in the case of  
 Prince Prettyman, having no father at  
 all. We laugh when 'Squire Slender  
 says, "Yes, sweet Mrs. Ann, I had a  
 father," yet where is the difference be-  
 tween him and these boasters of their  
 genealogies? They only say I had a  
 grandfather, a great-grandfather, and  
 so on, an assertion as self-evident, and  
 consequently as unnecessary as 'Squire  
 Slendor's. As we do not believe in  
 Prometheus's creation, we must allow  
 all equally spring from Adam and from  
 Eve; as Prior says.

30 THE TEST OF

Can Bourbon or Nassau go higher?

A man whose ancestors have distinguished themselves by their virtues, may indeed have some right to be proud of them, if he takes care to give his posterity as good a title to be vain of him; if not, they are his severest accusers, and every noble action of theirs reproaches him for his degeneracy.

But I forgot that you are, possibly, all this time very much out of patience. "What," you will say, "have I to do  
"with pedigrees, ancestors, posterity,  
" &c. who am interested deeply in one  
"present existing lover; and think as  
"little of those of the past, as of the  
"next century." Blush at your injustice; as it is your first fault of the kind, perhaps you may: Old offenders only have callous consciences, and unchangeable complexions. I indulged myself in writing the former part of my  
letter

## FILIAL DUTY. 81

letter three days ago, and seeing no other chance of getting so full intelligence, concerning what is most material to you as I wished, I obtained leave to make your mamma a visit, and stay one night with her. I returned home yesterday; but did not bring with me such full information as I desired. I found your mamma as well as she can be in her dear girl's absence; your father is somewhat chagrined; and Miss Sophia, in a temper composed of an equal quantity of pouts and vapours. In short, Mr. Leonard, at length finding that no knowledge of the place of your present abode was to be obtained, and that you were literally stolen from him, after expressing some resentment at the cruelty of this treatment, took his leave of them, with an intimation that he should not return while you were absent. Having no desire to conceal his sentiments any



longer from Miss Sophia, he made his declaration in her presence, and thereby opened her eyes to a truth, which vanity had till then prevented her from discovering; and it would still have blinded her to the strongest testimony, that had not been borne by himself. So severe a mortification seems to have ruffled her temper, in her own phrase, *immensely*; and she resents as much her father's endeavours to marry her to a man, whose affections he knew were engaged by another, as she does Mr. Leonard's indifference. She expresses a most sovereign contempt of the latter, "whose want of  
" taste and judgment," she says, " rendered him entirely unworthy of  
" her, and that her father must be  
" strangely infatuated to prefer him to  
" the many greater matches that must  
" necessarily offer; to which, person  
" out of the question, her fortune and  
alliances

“alliances would entitle her, nor will  
 “she ever forgive :” she adds, her  
 “having been offered to that stu-  
 “pid, silly fellow. Had her father  
 “been determined to marry her to a  
 “relation, he might at least have  
 “sought one in her mother’s family,  
 “an alliance which would have done  
 “him more honour, and have been  
 “more suitable to her ; but she shall  
 “no longer trust to his choice, but  
 “make her own election.”

They have heard nothing since of  
 your cousin ; they only know he is  
 not returned home, a letter having  
 come to him from Sir Joseph. I  
 fancy, in imitation of some prince Fa-  
 ruhknas, he is set out in search of his  
 fairy princess ; I wish the God of love  
 would guide him to your retreat, but  
 I fear there is not the least chance of  
 so lucky an adventure ; even Cupid  
 must recover his sight before he could

## 84 THE TEST OF

find you. No human Being I think could effect it, without your good uncle would kindly give him a clue; and the good man, I suppose, would sooner teach him the road to heaven; nor be prevailed on by Mr. Leonard, even were he prophane to tell him, that his heaven is in your presence. I wish I may be able to learn before my next letter (and surely the long period of a month may furnish much intelligence) what is become of your wandering knight; I shall omit no means of obtaining this knowledge; but, if his adventures should not prove very notable, fame may not employ her trumpet to convey them to my ears. However, should I hear of any great achievements effected by some knight in jet black armour, on a milk white palfrey, I shall certainly give him the honour of them. Perhaps he may be encountered by his own  
 father

## FILIAL DUTY. 85

father on the same errand, for Mrs. Leonard shewed me a letter from him, wherein he expressed himself concerning you in a stile worthy of Orondates himself. He is surprized at not having yet heard of the celebration of your nuptials with Lord Wilton; supposing it so impossible for a young woman to resist a title, that he has no doubt of your having accepted him; and he waits, he says, for that event with as dreadful sensations as he should for the stroke of death. Poor Sir Joseph! Is there any harm in hoping one event is not so far off as the other? He stands much in the way of your happiness; yet I will not wish to hurry him untimely out of it; but I would have dame Nature take her usual course, and not preserve him as one of the wondrous instances of longevity, from which so many old people gather encouraging expectations, while

## 86 THE TEST OF

while those poor instances had, probably, little reason to rejoice in their singularity : at least they have never appeared to me less enviable than since my dearest Emilia was removed so far from me, and so few opportunities allowed me of indulging myself in the only pleasure that could render her absence supportable. Were we to be always thus separated, my life would appear short by reflection, for I reckon my time by months ; hours and minutes have no place in my account, as our monthly intercourse of letters are the only periods my heart finds worthy of notice. What a long blank I must now pass through before I hear again from my beloved friend, or have an opportunity of assuring her how tenderly and sincerely I am ever her

July 2, Most affectionate and faithful  
1769. CHARTOTTE ARLINGTON.

LETTER



## LETTER XXVII.

Miss EMILIA LEONARD, to Miss  
CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON.

**M**Y best beloved friend may be assured, that I very sincerely participate in all her vexations. Though sufficient cause for melancholy has fallen to my own share, yet I find my heart has such an abundant portion of sensibility, that it can tenderly grieve for my dear Charlotte; perhaps my sensations are even stronger in this particular, for the depression of my spirits, as it renders me more susceptible of every melancholy impression. You will begin to triumph, and say, are you then unhappy after all your boasted resignation, reason, and philosophy? No, my sweet cousin, I  
am

## 88 THE TEST OF

am not. It is impatience, it is stubbornness, that makes us wretched. My spirits are low, and my heart is sad, but with a gentle sorrow, such as admits, "*les sombres plaisirs d'un cœur mélancholique,*" I chase from my mind all hope of a change in my situation, that I may, with the less struggle, submit to it, and save myself those anxious moments which expectation of more happy days must necessarily occasion. The turbulent sensations that attend a state of anxiety, are, of all others, the most painful; despair is accompanied by a kind of melancholy peace: unagitated by alternate hope and fear, the heart is quiet; its state is therefore supportable, for its greatest sufferings arise from contending passions. The composure of spirits that I have procured by a perfect submission to my fate, may then well preserve me from unhappiness,

## FILIAL DUTY. 89

unhappiness, as I have none of those dreadful misfortunes to lament which are the greatest calamities that human nature is liable to, yet escaped by few, if any, who live long in this world. It is true I am separated from all I love ; in all the bloom and spring of youth torn from every thing that could give pleasure to youthful spirits ; but have I not the joy of knowing that my friends, though distant, are well ? that I still retain a share in their affections ? that they enjoy the social pleasures from which I am secluded ; and, I hope, are happy, though their kind remembrance of me may occasion them some painful moments ? How much more dreadful a separation might death have made ! These are consolatory recollections, they preserve me from being miserable.

You,

You, my dear Charlotte, are in that turbulent state of anxiety, which I think the most pitiable. Your fate is undecided. The principal object of your hope, one may suppose, is your lover's constancy; but is it not more probable, that should occasion his ruin, than your gratification? I have an high opinion of Mr. Arlington; but, is there a father in the world, who will think constancy and honour sufficient fortune for his daughter's husband? Yet of what more will Mr. Edmondbury be possessed, if he exasperates his obstinate, ungenerous father? If you think you shall be happier without Mr. Edmondbury, than if married to him with any uncertainty on your mind, as to his real passion for you; and if you are entirely insensible to any uneasiness he may suffer, I will allow you have no reason to wish you had not been so superlatively delicate on the subject; but

## FILIAL DUTY. 91

but can you be so well satisfied with your conduct, when you consider that either his fortune must be ruined by disobedience to his father, or his peace destroyed, by marrying a woman, for whom he feels only indifference, while you possess his heart? I grant, however, that you are in good measure justified by the little probability of such a change in your affairs as this event has occasioned; and your delicacy could not at first be censured; but you carried it on too far; it was easy to be seen, that his sentiments were sufficiently tender to content a reasonable wife; but you had assumed a part you knew not how to relinquish with a good grace; and wished to be more sure of his affections, till you have brought yourself into the danger of receiving pain, rather than gratification, from that certainty. I am very uneasy about the event of this affair, and to think



think that I must remain in total ignorance for a whole month is intolerable.

Though, I believe, I ought in reason to be glad Mr. Leonard is removed from Miss Sophia's allurements, and my father's influence; yet I find myself very differently affected, because, I thereby lose the satisfaction of hearing of him. To know he is well, is all that can ballance the evils I suffer on his account; and without such intelligence, I fear, it will be difficult to preserve to my mind that tranquility which, as I have already said, can alone render my melancholy situation supportable. I flatter myself his friends will not long remain in this dreadful ignorance about him; and, that all my fortitude may not fail me, shall keep up a dependance on hearing of him in  
your

## FILIAL DUTY. 93

your next letter ; an expectation most necessary for my peace.

Your supposition as to my choice of songs to accompany the harp, is not much amiss ; you are right in those you imagine I shall reject, for such plaintive tunes are by no means in my plan ; if I have not yet played Old Sir Simon, or King John and the Abbot of Canterbury, it is because I cannot get the notes, though I should scarcely have endeavoured it, if you had not made honourable mention of them. I have several very pretty Welch songs ; but the truth is, the instrument is so well adapted to soft music, that it is impossible to keep quite clear of the tender : however, to avoid it as much as possible, I practise so many marches, that I shall be suspected of fighting for a son of Mars. You will be convinced it is an easy instrument, when I tell you

I

that

94 THE TEST OF

that I am perfect mistress of it, and play with more execution than my master, but he says I want strength, for I do not make the strings sound; he thinks good part of the merit of the performance consists in that jingling, which I endeavour to avoid, and in playing as loud as possible.

You may ridicule my learning the Welch language, as much as you please, but, beside the benefit of employment, I have found great comfort in it. I have acquired sufficient knowledge to understand the common people; and thus qualified, I visit the cottages, enquire into their wants, and have the pleasure of supplying them; for though luxury has not impoverished the inhabitants of this land of virtuous simplicity, yet poverty is to be found among them, and sickness will creep in, though temperance and industry seem

seem to forbid it's entrance. As I am allowed an unbounded liberty, in regard to expence, I hope to make several feel the benefit of my banishment: If it can produce happiness to others, I shall less regret the interruption my own receives. Do not you imagine, that unfortunate lovers will be the favourite objects of my bounty? I certainly feel a tender sympathy for them. I suspect my good-natured Peggy is one of that number, but as I do not chuse to listen to the soothing softness of such tales, I shall endeavour to gain the knowledge from any one rather than from herself; for if I give her liberty to speak on the subject, and the impediments to the completion of her wishes prove such as I can not remove, it may be difficult, without mortifying her, to prevent her indulging herself frequently, by talking on the same topic. I may mistake the occasion

96 THE TEST OF

sion of an air of melancholy I discover in her, for we are apt to suppose the sorrows of others proceed from the same cause as our own; as king Lear asks, — “Have his children brought him to this?”

It is cruel not to give what relief I can to the compassion I know you feel for the dullness of my situation; I ought therefore to inform you, that lovers may be found even in the most savage desarts; I have not only gained one here, but one almost as big as all I ever had before put together. The sight of his clenched fist, the most natural token of his resentment, would disperse a whole troop of modern beaux; the good man Hector was nothing to him in figure. When he approaches me, I fancy my sensations much resemble those of a poor trembling dove, going to be seized by the  
sharp



sharp pouncets of a ravenous Hawk. But this, my conquest merits a more circumstantial detail, that it may appear with proper dignity.

Be it known to you then, that two days after I wrote my last letter, I dined by invitation at Shem-Hall, the seat of the illustrious ap Rees. After passing through a very narrow avenue, of very shabby trees, I entered a house, which, by it's air, I should suppose the chief prison in Wales; and, indeed, no where could confinement wear a more melancholy aspect. The walls look black and ruinous, from the natural ravages of time; and are in several places propped up with buttresses, which now want support themselves. The windows are casements of about two feet in length, little more than one in breadth; and as of these the iron bars, and the lead, wherein the small panes

are set, make the greatest part, so little light enters, that through the whole house reigns a kind of "*darkness visible*." The hall is hung round with mildewed armour, rusty swords and spears, and broken guns, all fixed to a wainscot, so rotten from age and want of air, that what once served for the defence of the bodies of the great ap Rees, now threaten destruction to their descendants; and while they pointed out to me the most considerable of their progenitors, through a long pedigree, the least evil I feared was having my head broken by a pendant helmet; fortunate enough, if I escaped being crushed, by some more ponderous piece of armour. Mrs. ap Rees informed me, to which of the family each of these ornaments belonged; not a breast-plate but she appropriated to it's right owner, and related the several occasions on which they had been used; while

## FILIAL DUTY. 99

while my attention was chiefly engaged in an endeavour to keep as much as possible in the middle of the hall, having no inclination to rival Tarpeia, in her fate; especially, as mine would have less suited a female taste, for, except rust and mould can adorn, the armour with which I should have been oppressed, has no ornament to excite desire or admiration. The rest of the rooms in this chateau are small, low, and dark, and so damp, that were I not blessed with an excellent constitution, I might have suffered severely from my visit. In a short time it may possibly in some respects be improved, by "letting in new light, through chinks that time has made," for the waincot being in good measure mouldered away, and considerable breaches made in the walls, the air and light will soon find a free passage.

## 100 THE TEST OF

I imagine Mr. ap Rees would repair the most ruinous part of the structure, were it possible to knock in a nail without endangering the whole fabrick. The furniture seems in existence coeval with the walls. There is not a table or chair that does not limp from some defective leg, except a few that are made for the use of the ponderous part of the family, the work, I suppose, of a neighbouring carpenter, and in strength almost fit to support the world; but it was observed, that I was light enough to sit safely on one of the best chairs; and so well had experience instructed them in the due proportion of weight, between the person to be seated, and the strength of the seat, that I dared not even take a little Kitten, that played about the room, into my lap, lest, as “the last feather breaks the camel’s back,” puffs should bring me and chair to the ground; no trifling

fling fall, considering the height to which I was exalted.

To the honour of the female part of the family, I must observe, they have left evident proof, that they were great workers ; though now it would require still more industry and application to darn their performances than it did to compleat them, for they are only hints of *ap-Reean* good housewifry ; on every chair remains some scrap of Irish stitch ; the curtains of almost every bed are more strongly held together by the running pattern in which they have been worked, than by the threads of the dimities they are made of, these having in most places given way, and reminding one of the propriety of the good housewife's phrase of wear and tear. Another family virtue, however, appears in this well-wrought furniture, for surely cleanliness deserves



to be ranked among the virtues, they have been so often washed, and with such vigorous application, that no shade of colour remains, the flowers, leaves, birds, squirrels, and all the curious composition, is of one dingy hue. Mrs. ap Rees shewed me which was the work of her great-grandmother's great great grandmother, Maud ap Shenkin, great great grand-daughter, by the mother's side, of Glendower Cadwallader, prince of Wales; and then proceeded with the same exactness of detail, through the rest of the furniture; while Misses, with conscious dignity of birth, endeavoured, though in vain, to stretch their short necks out of their shoulders: but the young esquire, more successfully shewed his self-satisfaction, by grinning in my face; and, whenever the Relation mentioned permitted it, cried a Prince Miss! our great, great, great, uncle's great, great, great

great-grandfather, or at other times, mark, Miss, she was a Princess!

After this laborious survey, Mr. ap Rees, endeavouring to sweeten his peevish countenance as much as possible, said I must see their garden: I was conducted thither accordingly; and had opportunity of admiring how wide is the extent of bad taste, for even here, where I thought nature had fixed her reign, pleased with having found a retirement where no incroachments were made on her power, I found forresters with their withered guns, in yewh, swans in box, and foxes in holly; this I was told was the work of Sir Llewellen ap Rees, who had served in the armies of King William; and from that prince's new made gardens acquired this curious art. I was pleased to think his works will not long survive him, for the greatest part of every animal is

F 4

dead,

dead, little more than the beak of the swan, and the tail of the fox remaining green; yet I was called upon to admire the exact resemblance they bear to the originals they are designed to imitate. In this garden, far unlike the blissful bowers of Armida, did the heir to this delectable mansion, the descendant from so many princes, attempt to whisper some soft things in my ear, while his lady mother, and lovely sisters, were busied in tying together the yeugh-forrester's gun, which an unlucky gust of wind had broken; but, "his breath, more rude than Boreas, when he blusters," can never assume the voice of love; he brought Polypheme so much to my thoughts, that, insensibly, I began humming, "the  
 "flocks shall leave their mountains," &c. and, on recollection, blushed, at making so uncivil a return to the offer of so valuable a heart.

When

When these good people had exhibited all their possessions, their curiosity began to operate, and they endeavoured to discover the occasion of my coming hither, which might very justly puzzle them. Mrs. ap Rees said, when she first heard a young stranger was come into their neighbourhood, she imagined her health had required goat's milk, as many came into Wales for that purpose, though she had not known any before come into their part of the country for it, as they could be supplied so much nearer England, but since she had seen me she could not suppose health was my inducement, as I appeared to be in no want of it; to be sure, added she, you are very thin, very much wasted indeed, (do not imagine, my Charlotte, that I really am so, the good lady only judged on comparison with herself and family) but your complexion shews no signs of

sickness. "La! Mamma," says the miss of forty years, "with the look a  
 "kance of envy, how can you think  
 "so! Miss's is quite a set colour, sick  
 "people often have it; no body that  
 "was well could have their skin so  
 "white; it is for all the world like a  
 "corpse." "I with then," interrupted  
 the young esquire, "all women were  
 "sick; a corpse, truly! the sexton's  
 "would be a pretty office; if dead bo-  
 "dies looked like her, he would sel-  
 "dom fail peeping into the coffins;"  
 concluding this ingenious speech with a  
 laugh that shook the air, as if to bear  
 the loudest testimony he could to his  
 own wit. As I knew not how to ac-  
 count for my being in their neighbour-  
 hood, in a manner satisfactory to them,  
 and was afraid of their entertaining  
 some opinion very injurious to my char-  
 acter, I was really much distressed by  
 their inquiries; I did not chuse to tell  
 a lye,



a lye, and as little could I declare the truth; and found no way so likely to silence them as the philosopher's, who being told by an impertinent, that he wanted to know what he carried under his cloak, replied, "I carry it there because you should not know it." I therefore told them frankly, that I did not chuse to relate all the reasons of my coming hither, but if it would give them any satisfaction to know, that I had been advised by my relations to fix in that retirement till some family differences were settled, I would so far explain myself. This was by no means sufficient to answer the demands of their curiosity, but perceiving I would not resolve their plain questions, they endeavoured to entrap me, by supposing all the causes they could assign for so puzzling an affair, but love was at the bottom of all their suppositions; sometimes they pitied me for distresses

they imagined; at others applauded a conduct they kindly attributed to me; and, as I went very early to their house, both in compliance with their desire, and to avoid walking in the heat of the day, which was rendered extreme by a scorching sun, and the sultry closeness of the air, so usual in the dog-days, which were then not passed, I should have been terribly tormented, had not more company come in; and among them a gentleman, who so entirely engrossed my attention, that I took no more notice of the rest, than their honest open hearted civility, and curious examination of my person, rendered unavoidable. This gentleman I shall bring you better acquainted with; and I think I perceive a certain arch simper of suspicion on your countenance, hinting that Mr. Leonard's interest in my affections may probably be on the decline. I shall not deny it,  
but

but give you leave to judge; yet, at first setting out, your muscles will contract, and you will feel yourself disappointed.

Mr. Lewis, for so is he named, is about sixty-five years of age, his hair, which he wears pretty long, as white as snow, his complexion clear and healthful, his countenance spirited, yet the very picture of benevolence and sweetness; an air of dignity in his person, and the politeness of his manners shew he has not passed his life on these mountains. His appearance, so amia-  
bly venerable, struck me on his first entrance; with no small pleasure I received the compliments he immediately paid me, and, when he said he should have waited on me had he not thought so old a neighbour would rather add to the dullness of the country, I assured him I should take a visit from  
him

## 110 THE TEST OF

him as an honour, and was persuaded it would give me more pleasure than I could any other way receive, though I was by no means insensible to the charms of that country. Not ceremony, but truth dictated my answer; lost to all my friends, it is not to be imagined the satisfaction I felt in the sight of one whose countenance spoke him the friend of human kind; no longer enjoying the sweet partialities which used to constitute my happiness, I seized with joy the prospect of sharing with the rest of my species, the Benevolent affections of one worthy being; and that Mr. Lewis was so, I wanted no other testimony to convince me than his countenance.

In some few persons virtue is so strongly delineated as to leave no room for doubt, both the heart and the reason submit instantly to the irresistible evidence.

## FILIAL DUTY. 112

evidence. Such is Mr. Lewis; and for the remainder of the day we conversed chiefly together; the free-hearted, but coarse and noisy jollity wherein the rest of the company passed it, requiring little assistance from us; and I returned home much better pleased with my visit than I had expected.

In the afternoon of the next day, as I was reading Pere Daniel's history of France, in an arbour I have cut in a clump of hawthorn and maple bushes, of which the former is the outside, and the maple, as it were, the lining, with pen, ink, and paper, an half finished drawing, and Davila's history of the civil wars of France, on a table before me, against which my harp also was rested, for, having passed the whole day there, I had, as usual, collected all my materials for amusement, with which I diversify my hours, that I may  
not.



## 112 THE TEST OF

not, by pursuing any one employment to a degree of weariness, be prevented returning to it with equal spirit and satisfaction; as I was in this situation, my honest landlady conducted Mr. Lewis to me, who politely told me, "he could not prevail on himself to delay taking advantage of the liberty I had obligingly given him, of paying his respects to me." After what I have said you will believe I received him with pleasure; he admired my little bower, which is ornamented with pans of flowers, as I was not here to plant time enough, for them to be natives of that spot; he then bestowed a little flattery upon me for finding such various means of enlivening my solitude. He contrived to turn the conversation in such a manner, as gave him opportunity without impertinence, to ask what my books were, and said many things on the subjects

## FILIAL DUTY. 113

subjects they suggested, that both amused and instructed me. The drawing did not escape either his observation or his praise; and, as he imagined the harp was not useless, he begged me to let him hear me on an instrument, which he apprehended must be very new to me. I complied, and sang a Welch song to it, with which his fondness for music made him pleased, but he was surprised to find I understood that language. In short, had he been a younger man, I should have thought myself playing over the part of the young lady in the Englishman at Paris, and trying all my powers to attract; but though I had no such view, and was drawn into the exhibition, rather by complaisance than inclination, yet it was not without effect, for he seemed delighted with me; and I hope I may be allowed to acknowledge it without incurring the imputation of  
vanity,

vanity, as very moderate qualifications might naturally charm a man, who has not for some years seen a woman whose mind has received the least cultivation.

He would not suffer me to call for tea or coffee, saying, he very seldom drank either; and though they were of use in filling up the time passed in insipid company, yet he should unwillingly consent to suffer them to interrupt conversation that gave him so much pleasure. You will observe, that I hungred extremely after a little flattery, since it made such an impression, that I think it worth repeating; but my true reason for relating this circumstance is to account for my maid's ignorance of Mr. Lewis's being with me, which occasioned my being a good deal disconcerted; for before he had finished his visit, she came with a bundle in her arms, followed.

lowed by a group of sweet children whom I had ordered to call that evening, and before she saw my guest, began to tell me, in her native language, that the children were come, and she had brought the things, to save me the trouble of returning into the house. I endeavoured, by a sign, to silence her ; and to make her conduct back her little company ; but she had said enough to be understood by Mr. Lewis, who perceived my intention more quickly than she did, and intreated me to forget he was present, and not disappoint the expectation that appeared in the faces of the poor babes. There was no use in refusing to comply, so I called them to me, and gave to each the proper cloathing I had prepared ; which did not come too soon ; for, though it would be speaking largely to say they were naked, they certainly were far from being covered.

vered. The rapture wherewith they received the gift evinced that vanity is universal, for they had never known the comforts of convenient cloathing. Mr. Lewis now seemed to forget the accomplishments he had been admiring; for the pencil of Raphael, or the voice of a Farinelli, could not give him so much pleasure as the most trifling action that seems to betoken any benevolence of heart; and he expatiated on the subject in a manner that warmed mine.

He remained with me till the declining light reminded him it was time to return home; and since that visit he has seldom failed passing some hours every day with me, except the weather proves too rainy to suffer him to walk hither. At first, I believe, mere benevolence induced him to bestow his conversation upon me, seeing the great pleasure I took in it,  
the



the desire I had to improve by his knowledge both in men and books, and of increasing my own virtue by the study of his; but humanity seems now converted into a kind of paternal affection, he is tenderly interested in every thing that concerns me, and I enjoy the satisfaction of having acquired a sincere, instructive, and amiable friend, where I had no hopes of meeting with any such blessing. Fearing lest he should assign my being here to some cause that might hurt me in his esteem, I have acquainted him with the true one, and had the pleasure of hearing my filial obedience approved by him; though he thinks my father's scheme, in sending me here, extremely absurd.

Mr. Lewis has not treated me with less confidence than I shewed in him; I find that the earliest part of his life  
was

## 118 THE TEST OF

was passed in the army ; where he found himself neglected, and for a considerable time over-looked, while boys, and many of them the most profligate, were favoured and preferred. On his father's death he was elected to serve in parliament ; but, as he there followed only the dictates of his conscience, a total stop was put to his rising in the army. He found nothing but treachery in his political connexions, and folly and dissipation in his more general acquaintance. In short, at length wearied with disappointments, and impoverished by unavoidable misfortunes, at the age of fifty he retired to his family seat in this neighbourhood ; and though of a taste and understanding too refined to be perfectly satisfied with the society he found here, yet the exertion of his benevolence, and a very good library, which

## FILIAL DUTY. 119

which he purchased while he lived in the world, together with an excellent share of health, have made his days pass away very happily, pleasing in the enjoyment, and very delightful in retrospection. My situation you will perceive is greatly improved by my intercourse with such a man; but time has, with this blessing, brought an evil to temper it. Young Mr. ap Rees torments me abominably with his addressee; a gentle, sighing beau may tieze one a little, but it is only like the buzzing of a fly, disagreeable, but no way tremendous; not so the courtship of this coarse, boisterous lover: he is angry at my rejection of his suit; and I am sometimes afraid he will beat me; yet this is the least alarming of his emotions, if a smile escapes me, which his absurdity sometimes renders unavoidable, he will catch hold of my hand with such a gripe, that I expect

pect to see every finger broken; for I verily believe he could snap my bones as easily as in my childish days, I have the merry thought of a chicken. His gallantry robust, terrifies me, and prevents my going to any distance from the house without my maid, who thinks this cannibal so honourable a conquest, that she admires my good fortune. I could not have better disposed myself to put an end to this bulky epistle, than by employing my pen on this subject; it is therefore a lucky one for you, who may very reasonably be tired before you have read thus far; but let the length of time since I wrote last, and my great leisure, plead in excuse for the size of a letter, in writing which I have found my greatest pleasure, as it bears some resemblance, though a poor one, since I am the only speaker, so conversing with my beloved friend., my dearest

## FILIAL DUTY. 121

Charlotte, whose I ever am with the  
tenderest and most sincere affection,

EMILIA LEONARD.

---

### L E T T E R XXVIII.

Miss CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON to Miss

EMILIA LEONARD.

My dearest Emily,

**Y**OU cannot imagine how much  
you have lightened my heart by  
the account you sent me of your new  
acquisition. Surely, the best this world  
affords is a friend; in some of my giddy  
moments, I might perhaps have said a  
lover; but, in my present state of gra-  
vity, I can make no comparison be-  
tween them; for love is too apt to im-  
bitter those hours which it fallaciously

VOL. II.

G

promised.



promised to make dance "away, with  
 "down upon their feet." At this very  
 instant I feel some abominable twinges  
 at my heart, that will not suffer me to  
 allow, that "love's very woes de-  
 "light:" these affirmations were cer-  
 tainly uttered in the infancy of love,  
 while it only played round the heart,  
 and had not made that deep impression  
 which cuts sharper than the ruffian's  
 sword, though not quite so fatally.  
 In those early days, "our sighs are  
 "like the vernal air, like April drops  
 "our tears;" but too soon I find that  
 storms and tempests will arise to blast  
 our pleasures, and overthrow our peace.  
 No one then can with better reason  
 prefer a friend to a lover; and that  
 you have obtained such an one, gives  
 me the most sincere joy. I have never  
 suffered my pen to say how very sen-  
 sibly I have felt the forlornness of your  
 situation,

situation, as I thought it no proper subject to entertain you with; but I have greatly feared a state of absolute solitude, when your mind was too ill at ease to suffer you to be the best company to yourself, would produce such a depression of spirits, as even time, and a restoration to the world might never be sufficient to conquer. The natural goodness of your constitution could not ascertain your health, especially when in a situation, the vexations of which might possibly impair it; and to think of you either under the dangers, or languors of sickness, with no one fit to attend you in the one, or capable of amusing you in the other, has almost distracted me; but this excellent Mr. Lewis has dispelled these apprehensions, and I already love him as my benefactor, and your comforter: how powerful a claim do these characters give him on my gratitude!

## 124 THE TEST OF

If you had not raised in me so high an opinion of him, I should fear his heart might be made of the same combustible matter with Sir Joseph's; that would be a real misfortune to you; I hope Cupid will play no such foolish tricks with him; but the urchin, sometimes, loves to shew he can subdue the strong, and turn to folly the wisdom of the wisest. To lose the friend in the lover, is generally a bad exchange; but never so certainly as when the change is made in a heart that has beat in the same bosom above three-score years.

You will already guess that I have heard nothing of Mr. Leonard, or he would have been my first subject. He is still lost to others; but I trust not to himself; I suppose he is busied in his search of you; and when he finds it in vain, he will again appear among  
his

his friends. I wish you could send your Polypheme to seek him; your description of him frights me: I know not which is more terrible, his love or his anger, to be careffed, or to be devoured by fuch an animal; yet when you mention Ulyffes's companions, I think I tremble moft at the latter.

"He fucks the marrow, and the blood he drains," conveys a very fmocking image; it is worfe to be ferved, than to have both fingers and arm broken: you never were a "*romp-loving mifs*," or you would be better qualified to keep his gallantry robuft within tolerable bounds.

A fortnight ago I was at ———— races, which were agreeable to me, becaufe I had Mr. Edmondbury for my partner, though the affair between

## 126 THE TEST OF

us continues just in the same state as when I wrote last: nor was your sister less pleased with the hand, and tender attentions of Sir Andrew Donaldson, a Scotch baronet who came from London to honour our races; to grace them I could not say; for, begging Miss Sophia's pardon, I never saw a more disagreeable man, though by many called a fine figure. He is tall, and not ill-proportioned, but coarse in his appearance, and rather bold than easy in his air; forward, talkative, and conceited. Such as he is, however, your sister thought him worth her notice, and played off her attractions with all the arts of coquetry; of a far different sort were they from those with which you charmed Mr. Lewis, but not less successful; for she seemed to have made an absolute conquest of the baronet; and as the shafts that wounded him are tipped with gold, I



flatter myself his passion may produce fruits, that surely must restore my lovely Emilia to her friends ; for should Miss Sophia condescend to become Lady Donaldson, there can no longer be any cause for keeping you in banishment : but I have heard nothing since of the baronet ; I hope he only waits till his *black box* is sent him from the Highlands ; and that he will then, with his rent-roll in his hand, importune as warmly as she shall think decorum requires ; I do not believe she will be *over delicate* ; she is a *reasonable* girl on that subject, whatever she is on —

Though two days are elapsed since I wrote the above, yet I scarcely know how to tell my dearest friend the occasion of my breaking off so abruptly. You will feel too sensibly for me ; yet how can I conceal any thing from the partner of my heart ! take then the

account of my present situation. I was stopped in the midst of my paragraph, by a letter from Mr. Edmondbury, which I opened with impatience and pleasure, expecting only to see the same sentiments traced by his hand, as had filled so many others that I have received lately; but imagine how much I was shocked when I read the following words:

“ Must I then bid adieu to the love-  
 “ lieft of women! Oh! my ever dear  
 “ Miss Arlington, may you never feel  
 “ the anguish I now endure! ardently  
 “ as I have longed for the full posses-  
 “ sion of your heart, I would not ob-  
 “ tain that blessing at the cruel price  
 “ of making you an equal sharer in  
 “ my sufferings. All my hopes are  
 “ blasted; that dear hand I once  
 “ thought would be yielded to me, will  
 “ now, I fear, never be mine; but I  
 “ have

" have at least the satisfaction of not re-  
 " ceiving that of another ; if I cannot  
 " be my dearest Charlotte's (pardon my  
 " angel this freedom) I will not be the  
 " husband of any other woman. My  
 " father, this morning, told me, that  
 " for the last time he put it to my  
 " choice, whether I would marry Lady  
 " Mary —, or relinquish all expec-  
 " tations of ever being looked up-  
 " on as his son. However distressing  
 " the alternative, I could not hesitate,  
 " but answered, that nothing could  
 " alter my resolution of never marry-  
 " ing any woman but Miss Arlington ;  
 " that I esteemed Lady Mary's virtues,  
 " and was grateful for her partiality  
 " for me, though it had cost me so  
 " dear ; but it was so impossible for  
 " me ever to feel any tenderer senti-  
 " ments for her, that no consideration  
 " should force me to enter into a con-  
 " nexion that would give her a right

"to require them. The rage this ex-  
 "cited in my father is beyond descrip-  
 "tion; but few words will suffice to  
 "tell the result of it; he ordered me  
 "to leave the house directly, and never  
 "again to see his face, or in any man-  
 "ner address him: nor could the most  
 "submissive intreaties obtain any miti-  
 "gation of the sentence. In less than  
 "an hour I left my paternal mansion,  
 "but was not able to proceed farther  
 "than ———, where I now am, but  
 "shall pursue my journey to-morrow.  
 "I would not attempt to see the darl-  
 "ing of my heart, because I would  
 "not expose myself to the danger of  
 "taking advantage of the genero-  
 "sity of her's. No, my dear Char-  
 "lotte, I will never appear again be-  
 "fore you, except it be in such cir-  
 "cumstances as shall allow me to sol-  
 "licit my own happiness without des-  
 "troying your's. Hope has not yet  
 "absolutely

## FILIAL DUTY. 131

“ absolutely forsaken me ; the world  
“ is open to me, an honourable death,  
“ or fortunate events may relieve me  
“ from my present misfortunes ; the  
“ only one I can severely feel, is be-  
“ ing obliged to relinquish the dear  
“ delight of my life, the sight of the  
“ loveliest of women, to whom I shall  
“ ever be, while I am any thing, with  
“ all the tenderest affections of my  
“ soul, her entirely devoted

H. E.

What a task did I set myself, when  
I undertook to copy this letter ! how  
difficult to my heart, my hand, my  
eyes, which my tears continually blind-  
ed, to go through it ! but I could nei-  
ther part with the original, nor think  
of leaving my dearest friend but half  
informed of my present situation.

The



The condition into which I was reduced by the perusal of this letter, was soon related to my mamma, who kindly flew to my assistance. She and my father have, with equal tenderness, endeavoured to comfort me; and I accuse myself of ingratitude in not feeling the benefit of their goodness; but even parental consolations cannot prove effectual in this case, where I have every thing to fear, even for the life of this excellent young man. His words imply a desperate resolution, and my mind is filled with the most horrid images. How cruelly generous not to take leave of me, at least! I might then have discovered his intentions, and prevailed with him not to expose himself to dangers which may involve me in eternal regret, and the bitterest self-reproaches. How gladly now would I unite his hand to Lady Mary's, to save him from the distresses that may  
await

## FILIAL DUTY. 133

await him! I shall never forgive myself for the part I have acted; I must for ever detest the word delicacy, with which we so frequently varnish over our foolish vanity. You know not, my Emilia, how dreadful self-condemnation is; you never will know, because you will never do any thing that can subject you to it. I can write no more, even to you. Oh, that you, my friend, my comforter, were but with me! surely then I could bear any thing; you could not fail of bringing peace to the bosom of,

Your ever faithful

And affectionate

Aug. 20,

1770.

CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON.

LETTER

## L E T T E R XXIX.

Miss EMILIA LEONARD to Miss  
CARLOTTE ARLINGTON.

**T**HE long habit of pouring all the effusions of my heart into the bosom of my dearest Charlotte, is so prevalent, that I cannot forbear imparting to her, at least in imagination, the scenes I have been lately engaged in, though the time is still at some distance when I can send away my letter; and two days yet must pass before I can receive the packets with which my kind friends gladden the beginning of every month.

Though the season of the year is now too far advanced to suffer me to spend the whole day abroad; yet, after having taken a little walk, I was sitting in my arbour with Mr. Lewis, and singing one of his favourite songs.

to my harp, when I beheld Mr. Leonard, with the swiftness of lightening, coming towards us. Surprized out of all command over myself, I started up, overset the table, threw down my harp, and immediately the sudden agitation of my spirits overcoming my senses, fell upon this heap of ruins. When I revived, which was I believe in a very short time, I found myself seated on the bench, supported by Mr. Leonard, and Mr. Lewis holding a bottle of salts to my nose, he always carrying some in his pocket; to relieve him in a giddiness in his head, to which he is subject. I was so stupified with astonishment, that I made no effort to withdraw myself from Mr. Leonard, only raised my head from his breast, whereon it was reclined, to look up in his face, and be assured it was really him. His pale and sickly countenance restored me to my senses

in

in the most painful manner, and I burst into tears. These, in a little time, relieved me, and I enquired what brought him hither. “Can my Emilia ask?” said he, what is there “in this world that has attractions for me but herself?” Mr. Lewis would have left us, thinking himself de trop at such a time, but I would not suffer it. I assured him that so good a friend, and one so well acquainted with my affairs, could be no restraint, and I should perhaps have occasion for his assistance; for it immediately occurred to me what part I ought to act. You will not suppose that Mr. Leonard thanked me for that addition [to our party; and for the very same reason that made me chuse it. I feared, if we were left alone, while my heart was overflowing with joy and tenderness, and my thoughts all confusion, I might be drawn into some promise,



which I could not fulfil without swerving from my duty to my Parents; the presence of a third person was therefore my best defence, as it would oblige him to moderate the tenderness and ardour of his persuasions, and prevent my being too much influenced by his arguments, and my own affection. It would be strange imprudence not to endeavour to elude an attack we wish to resist. I was determined to persevere in the course I had begun, and dreaded the conflict to which, in all probability, that perseverance would expose me.

To avoid a softer subject, I asked Mr. Leonard how he learnt the place of my abode; pardon me, my dearest friend, if I had conceived some suspicions injurious to your honour in the article of secrecy; but those he soon dispelled, by informing me,  
that,

that, after having sought at the house of every acquaintance where he thought it possible I should be, he had, by bribery, gained the wished for information of the only servant belonging to my uncle who could give him any light into it ; not that even he could tell him exactly where I was ; but, by circumstances, he gathered I was in this county, which he had been traversing in search of me near a fortnight, enquiring at every house ; not more at those near the great road, than at the most retired ; for which purpose he had bent his course through every lane he saw." In short, he seems to have beaten about for me as coursers do for a hare, examining every brake and bush, and at length has started me. He added that, " having at last found me, he would never leave this spot till I would accompany him."

I told

## FILIAL DUTY. 139

I told him, "I was sure he did not  
"sufficiently consider what he said;  
"that neither of those things could  
"be; I would not affect an indiffe-  
"rence too foreign to my heart; but  
"whatever my sentiments were, no-  
"thing should ever induce me to  
"violate my duty, or my word to my  
"father, by both of which I was  
"bound to submit entirely to his will;  
"while he required it, therefore I  
"should remain in my present soli-  
"tude, where he (Mr. Leonard) must  
"be sensible he could not, with pro-  
"priety, continue; and I was per-  
"suaded his regard for me was too ge-  
"nerous and sincere, to suffer him to  
"entertain any such design, when he  
"had taken a little time to reflect on  
"the consequences of such a proceed-  
"ing. His visit, however short, must  
"expose me to strong suspicions of  
"having informed him of my situa-  
"tion,

“tion, which it seemed so impossible  
 “otherwise to find, that although I  
 “believed my parents had great con-  
 “fidence in my honour, and right  
 “sense of my duty, yet a proof so  
 “seemingly strong must stagger their  
 “opinion.”

A warm contest arose ; I intreated  
 him to leave me that evening ; he was  
 inflexible, declared he could not live  
 under a longer separation from me ;  
 and accused me of cruelty, while my  
 heart was bleeding with the wounds I  
 inflicted on it, by the forced resolu-  
 tion I had assumed. He begged, he  
 knelt, he wept, till I could answer him  
 only with my tears ; and even Mr.  
 Lewis shed some in friendly sympathy.  
 I, in my turn, became the petitioner ;  
 on my knees I intreated to be spared  
 this cruel conflict, I told him, “that by  
 “thus distressing me, he might break  
 “my

## FILIAL DUTY. 141

“my heart, but could never bring  
“me to change my resolution, since  
“if I did, I could no longer deserve  
“his love. What dependance could  
“a man have on the fidelity of a wife  
“who had violated her faith to her fa-  
“ther, and failed in her first duties?”

In this distracted state we continued above two hours; each begging, and neither granting; every sentence interrupted by our tears, till Mr. Lewis, unable to support the scene, and desirous to calm the tumult of our minds, interposed. He desired we would hear a proposal he had to make, and suspend our contest for the present, as we were not then in a situation to determine properly on any thing. He said, “he greatly admired my  
“conduct, but thought me rather too  
“severe; evidently not less so to my-  
“self than to my lover, who he desired  
“might



“ might pass that night at his house ;  
 “ and he did not doubt but reflexion  
 “ would determine him to comply with  
 “ what I so properly required : but  
 “ that I must give him leave to pass  
 “ the next day in that neighbourhood ;  
 “ after which he hoped he would be  
 “ calm enough to obey me with less  
 “ concern, than just in the joyful mo-  
 “ ment of having found me after so  
 “ long an absence.”

Mr. Leonard thanked the good old  
 man for this respite ; and I consented,  
 on condition that he would endeavour  
 to reconcile his guest to the necessary  
 separation, and that in his company  
 I would see Mr. Leonard the next day,  
 but not otherwise, as I thought the  
 presence of a much respected friend  
 was the best support against the weak-  
 nesses of one's own heart ; and without  
 it I feared it would be more difficult

to adhere to a resolution, which, if broken, would render me miserable from self-reproach, and, at the same time, make me unworthy of all compassion.

This condition was granted, and Mr. Lewis offered, if we would avoid the subject that had so long engaged us, to delay his return home longer than usual, and borrow light of the moon to conduct his guest safe, that we might spend a little longer time together. Accordingly, we went into the house, as the sun was down, and they sat with me till near ten o'clock. Nothing more was said relative to our late contention, and the conversation took a more pleasing turn. How delightful were those few hours! but how dangerous to my resolution! Was it prudent in Mr. Lewis to force me thus into that sweet, that enchanting conversation

conversation, which duty required I should so soon relinquish? Every indulgence of that kind must make the task more difficult; for each hour spent with Mr. Leonard, adds to the esteem he has inspired; — at such a time too, when absence and distress had, if possible, increased his tenderness; and an air of sickness and melancholy rendered it still more touching; but age and wisdom prevented Mr. Lewis from seeing this danger in it's strongest colours.

The gentlemen left me to my rest; but, alas! I could no where find it. I even forgot that the time of night called me to bed. I sat some hours indulging in the delightful recollection of every word Mr. Leonard had uttered, and the still more enchanting things his eyes had spoken, my heart seemed possessed of every joy this world could afford it, and to have nothing  
more

## FILIAL DUTY. 145

more to wish, till, as it were, sickening at it's excess of happiness, it began to sink; and reflexion on the sacrifice I must the next day make to duty intruding, every pleasing thought vanished, and despair took full possession. This cruel transition cost me floods of tears, and it was four o'clock in the morning before I was sufficiently composed, to hope my bed could afford me any relief; but I had not been long in it, when nature, worn out by the violent and various agitations my mind had undergone, gave way to sleep; and at seven I awoke with calmer spirits, and stronger reason. It was still strengthened by the best means of procuring resolution and fortitude sufficient to prefer duty to inclination; and my mind was tolerably prepared to perform the task of that day, by the time the gentlemen arrived, which

was not long after eight o'clock, as they intended breakfasting with me. The colour my cheeks had lost by the violent state my mind had been in for so many hours, was soon restored to them by the notice my friends took of the alteration in my complexion, for the cause being too evident, I was extremely disconcerted at giving such a proof of my weakness; but I believe it was of service to me, for Mr. Leonard, tenderly anxious for my health, promised no more to distress me, but to submit implicitly, and, if possible, without repining, to whatever I should command.

After breakfast was over, to which Mr. Lewis only did due honour, observing in us both a good deal of confusion, Mr. Leonard fearing what I would say, and I distressed to know how



FILIAL DUTY. 147

how to begin, Mr. Lewis desired we would permit one to speak, whose reason was less disturbed. “ Your smile, “ Mr. Leonard, and your blushes, “ Madam, continued the worthy man, “ speak your assent. Believe me, the “ impatience of youthful lovers is the “ principal cause of the affliction I see “ you in. Disagreeable impediments “ obstruct your immediate marriage; “ but do either of you think so lightly “ of the other’s constancy, as to fear “ a little delay ? or are you so given “ up to passion, that your reason “ cannot be heard, when it tells you “ that time can scarcely fail of removing all the difficulties which now “ distract you ? You, my fair friend, “ I know can well exculpate yourself “ from every imputation that can “ reflect dishonour on the sublimest “ and purest of human minds ; you  
H 2 “ neither

148 THE TEST OF

“neither distrust your lover, nor are a  
 “slave to love, being under the equi-  
 “table government of duty; but your  
 “sensibilities are too strong, and your  
 “heart too tender; you sacrifice love  
 “to duty, but your fears conquer your  
 “reason. Before this gentleman’s ap-  
 “pearance here, your mind seemed in  
 “so calm a state, that I would not at-  
 “tempt to lessen the despair to which  
 “it was owing, as I thought I might  
 “only raise an unhappy tumult in  
 “your breast, by introducing hope.  
 “If Mr. Leonard is the slave of his  
 “passion for you, which I must con-  
 “fess seems to play the tyrant  
 “over his mind, the object makes  
 “his excuse; all the world must al-  
 “low you are formed to turn every  
 “head that is not covered with grey  
 “hairs. But, my dear friends, con-  
 “sider, that if you can but bring your-  
 selves

## FILIAL DUTY. 149

“ selves to wait patiently, the course  
 “ of a few years must remove every  
 “ obstruction. Love, at Sir Joseph’s  
 “ age, is a kind of false fire, which  
 “ cannot burn long : what turn can it  
 “ take so reasonably as the desire of  
 “ acquiring the most amiable daughter  
 “ in her who was never fit to be his  
 “ wife? Were this change to take  
 “ place, which is highly probable, if  
 “ not precluded by an event no less  
 “ natural, and even to be expected at  
 “ Sir Joseph’s age, your father, Miss  
 “ Leonard, would not refuse you to  
 “ the man whom he so ineffectually  
 “ desires for your sister, when good  
 “ part of his motive for doing so will  
 “ be answered by your union with Mr.  
 “ Leonard ; the estate will still be in  
 “ the family ; he will acquire for a son  
 “ the man he so highly esteems, and  
 “ complete the happiness of a much-

"loved daughter. You yourself ima-  
 "gine he might have been brought to  
 "this, had not Sir Joseph's ill-timed  
 "passion, by depriving him of all  
 "hope of uniting the families in this  
 "manner, strengthened his resolution  
 "of endeavouring to do it by Miss So-  
 "phia's means. I read in your eyes,  
 "Sir, that you think I speak like an  
 "old man, when I make so light of  
 "the requisite delay."

"I believe you may, Sir," replied  
 Mr. Leonard, "I should not deserve  
 "my Emilia, if I thought that delay  
 "a small evil; but yet I am not so un-  
 "reasonable as to expect a blessing just  
 "at the time I would chuse it. One  
 "so inestimable would amply repay  
 "all the pains of expectation, and I  
 "would wait with patriarchal perse-  
 "verance,

## FILIAL DUTY. 151

“ verance, if not with patience, for  
 “ that is more than I can promise, if I  
 “ might in the mean time, see and  
 “ converse with her ; but condemned  
 “ to a cruel separation, I may not live  
 “ till the change you so sanguinely  
 “ expect time will make ; and who  
 “ can insure to me the life of my  
 “ Emilia ?”

Mr. Lewis found no great difficulty  
 in answering these objections, and was  
 so successful in his arguments, that he  
 at length brought us to see, and to  
 acknowledge, that our situation was  
 not so lamentable as we imagined ;  
 he filled us with hopes of better days,  
 and disposed us to patient acquies-  
 cence in our present mortifications. He  
 declared, “ he could on that subject,  
 “ turn prophet ; he was certain, two per-  
 “ sons, so well formed for each other,



“ must be united, and, old as he was,  
 “ hoped he should live to see the uni-  
 “ on of the loveliest pair that were  
 “ ever joined in hymen’s bands.” You  
 have perceived before that the good  
 old man can flatter ; and how pleasing  
 is it made by his manner ! It is his  
 heart flatters, his tongue is only obe-  
 dient to it’s dictates ; he says more  
 than one deserves, but no more than  
 he thinks.

His discourse operated like enchant-  
 ment, all flutter of spirits subsided, all  
 complaints ceased, we were almost  
 ready to congratulate each other on  
 the happy change in our affairs, so  
 strong an alteration was made in their  
 appearance by the different light in  
 which he represented them. In short,  
 we pleased so well my venerable friend,  
 that he said, “ as we were grown a  
 “ little

" little reasonable, he did not see why  
 " we should deny ourselves the plea-  
 " sure of each other's company a day  
 " or two longer; and he thought Mr.  
 " Leonard's long and tedious search  
 " for me, deserved such a reward."  
 Perceiving a very joyful assent in our  
 countenances, he told me, " that as  
 " my lover was now come too well to  
 " his senses to put my duty to so se-  
 " vere a task, as the evening before,  
 " he would make a visit he had pro-  
 " mised to a neighbour, and return  
 " time enough to conduct his guest  
 " home; only requiring, as the condi-  
 " tion to which we owed his complai-  
 " sance in leaving us, that if either  
 " hinted at the approaching day of se-  
 " paration, the pains attending the  
 " delay of happiness, or any thing of  
 " of that melancholy kind, the other  
 " should immediately enjoin silence on

“the subject, and turn the conversation.” This he required us both to promise; and I had occasion, during the remainder of that day, to call Mr. Leonard to order several times on that topic; he very submissively obeyed, in consideration of his promise given.

It was not quite eleven in the morning, when Mr. Lewis left us, and he did not return till near nine at night. We banished every melancholy idea, even the thought of how short a time our present happiness was to continue; our spirits were all harmony; joy was so new a guest in both our bosoms, that it was cherished with a double welcome. We had never conversed with so little restraint; it was to no purpose for me to endeavour to conceal the return my heart makes to his tender attachment, circumstances have too plainly

plainly discovered it; nor had I reason to wish it unknown to a man, whose respect for me is even superior to his passion, or rather whose passion is so delicate, that if I ceased to appear respectable, I should no longer, to him, appear lovely. Joy seemed to have exalted us above mortality; and the necessary support of frail mortals would have been forgot; had not my maid been more herself than her mistress was, and provided us dinner without orders. But paying little attention to time, having conducted Mr. Leonard to my usual walks and arbors, to which I wished to give by his presence the greatest charm they could receive, we did not return into the house till above two hours after dinner was ready; and so little occasion had we for it, that I could scarcely believe the truth of the common assertion, that one cannot live upon love.

The next day was equally delightful, Mr. Lewis did not come to us till late in the evening, not even accompanying Mr. Leonard, who was with me by seven o'clock, and found me ready dressed to receive him; though my toilette had engaged more of my attention than on any day since I came to this place. Mr. Lewis very charitably went to the Chateau des ap-Rees, to prevent Caliban from intruding on my happy hours; which, as he had not visited me of the two preceding days, we had great reason to apprehend. We seemed to have passed but a short time together, when Mr. Lewis's entrance made us recollect that our day was drawing towards a close; a painful recollection, as it had been agreed that Mr. Leonard should depart on the next; and, indeed, I had felt some apprehensions that I was not acting as I ought, in indulging myself in a pleasure which  
the



the will of my parents had denied to me. In Mr. Leonard's coming I was no way to blame, but for suffering him to stay I could not so well justify myself. A little gloom began to overspread our countenances when the clock struck nine, which Mr. Lewis perceiving, observed, that if Mr. Leonard set out from my house the next day, at eleven o'clock, he would reach ———, the first good town on the road, before it was dark. This bore the joyful sound of a reprieve to the condemned, and we parted, if not with the same content of mind as the day before, yet with tolerable ease and composure.

Mr. Leonard asked me, before he departed, "at what hour he might come the next morning?" I told him, "his heart should be his director."

“rector.” This, you will say, was calling on him for an early visit, and he was not unmindful of the call. At the first dawning of the day I arose, and, on opening my shutter, saw Mr. Leonard walking before the house, watching the windows; I hurried on my things as fast as possible, and let him in; no less impatient to see him, than to give him shelter against the weather; the sun-shine we had enjoyed for some days having given place to a very hard rain; in defiance of which he had left the roof of his hospitable host above an hour before day-break; though with so little hope of my receiving him directly, that he was all joy and gratitude for my rising so early. You will believe that the pleasure and pain I felt at this proof of his impatience to see me were both exquisite; and  
that,

that, had I guessed he was so near, I should have raised the family long before the first ray of light called them from their beds.

We met not in the same spirits as the day before, but our dejection was not without it's pleasure. We flattered each other with the hopes of not being long separated. He declared " he would open his whole  
" heart to my father ; tell him he  
" could never entertain a thought of  
" any other woman but myself ; and  
" that if he would recall me to his house,  
" he would submit to any restraint he  
" should command ; and wait with pati-  
" ence till he could, with my father's  
" approbation, make his addreses to  
" me."

At twelve o'clock Mr. Lewis came, having named an earlier hour than he thought

thought necessary, in hopes of finding us more willing to part, for having expected to be sooner torn asunder; but he did not find his good-natured intention answered; and though he exerted all the powers of the kindest friendship, we acquitted ourselves but ill, and felt the separation almost as dreadful as if we had been sure it was to be eternal. The good man was much distressed; he knew not to which he ought to give his care; Mr. Leonard seemed most to want it, but I have the strongest interest in him; however, at length, partiality gave way to humanity, and he determined to go part of the way with my cousin, and endeavour to calm his mind; promising to call on me in his return.

I shall not attempt to describe my sensations when they left me; it

is beyond my power ; and I am too much ashamed of my weakness to endeavour it. Happily the rain had ceased, and the weather was grown tolerably fine. In the evening Mr. Lewis came, and found me extremely dejected ; for the hopes I had conceived while Mr. Leonard's presence cheered my heart, now appeared too weakly founded to administer consolation. All within me was grief and despondency ; but my venerable friend awakened more pleasing thoughts ; he again encouraged me to hope, and bore so flattering a testimony to Mr. Leonard's tender attachment to me, as could not fail of reviving my spirits, though I had no doubts on that subject before ; but what we much wish cannot be too frequently confirmed. I felt no small satisfaction in finding he had in the few hours they passed together,



together, which were stolen from the night's due rest at their return home from me, gained so much of Mr. Lewis's esteem, who joins in the general opinion of his being the most agreeable man he ever knew, and no less admirable in principles than in manner, person and conversation. My spirits are not yet sufficiently composed to allow me to return to usual amusements; so entirely has this short interview deranged my thoughts, and destroyed the calmness of mind, I had with so much care acquired and preserved; but I hope soon to be restored to my reason, for I am both mortified and ashamed of my weakness: and to be more at liberty to drive from my mind once more the intruder on my peace, I chose to relate to you all that had passed, before my thoughts could dwell on any other subject, that they might not be recalled

recalled to it after I had begun to recover a due command over them. For the same reason I shall now write to my mamma an account of the visitor I have had, I would by no means fail of acquainting her with it, as my silence might lead her to suspect that he gained from me the knowledge of my abode. Therefore I shall here break off this letter, and hope, that before I am obliged to send it away, I shall be able to resume the pen with a more tranquil mind. Adieu, then, for this day, my dearest Charlotte.

Nothing could so effectually have turned my thoughts from myself as my dearest friend's letter; but how little to the benefit of my peace! My spirits were grown composed, and my Books again gave me content, when, on receiving my long wished for  
 packets

packets from my friends, your's robbed me of my newly acquired tranquillity. My heart is wounded by your distress, and I am a prey to an anxiety which I shall not easily conquer, as I cannot blame myself for it. I have nothing to urge against the sensibilities of friendship, they are founded on reason, on justice, on virtue; by what means then can I subdue the painful sensations you have awakened in my breast? It is impossible: I shall remain distressed till I again hear from my best beloved Charlotte. I much admire Mr. Edmonbury's generous resolution! surely he deserves to be treated with equal generosity. Happiness is as likely to be found in a moderate fortune as in a great one. Your's alone is sufficient for those who

“ Mean to live the life of reason ;

• And that's the only life to live.”

“ Mean

## FILIAL DUTY. 165

Let Sir Edward do what he pleases with an estate, you would not want. But why should I say this to my Charlotte, who I am persuaded thinks on this subject as I do; and if possessed of the means of purchasing every rational enjoyment; would never sigh for the expensive pleasures of shew and dissipation; but whatever her opinion, must conform her actions to her father's, and rather seem ungenerous than be undutiful. Let this, my beloved friend, be your fixed resolution, and then however distressed, you cannot be miserable; the sense of having done your duty will be a consolation under every affliction; and may such consolation ever attend my dear Charlotte, and her sympathizing and tender friend,

Aug. 24.  
1769.

EMILIA LEONARD.

LETTER

166 FILIAL DUTY.

L E T T E R XXX.

Miss CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON to Miss  
EMILIA LEONARD.

**I**N how different a state of mind do I begin this letter, from that wherein I concluded my last to my dearest Emily! Surely, no one was ever so blest in her parents as I am! But let me suppress the joyful exultations of my heart while I give my beloved friend a circumstantial detail of the cause I have for them. In my last, I told you that my papa and mamma treated me with the tenderest compassion; their sensibility daily increased by the sight of my continued affliction. Had Mr. Edmondbury deserted me from levity or mercenary motives; nay, had he fallen an untimely sacrifice



## THE TEST OF 167

fice to the common lot of mortality, and been a victim to that king of terrors, Death, I am persuaded I could have patiently resigned myself to the will of him, by whose I hope I shall always regulate my own; I could have borne the loss of one of whose society I had never had any long enjoyment, and however painful my sensations at the time, should not have suffered myself to believe that my happiness depended on the life of a man, whom, till within these eight months, I never saw; but the consideration of the evils I had brought upon him, the tormenting reproaches of my own conscience were insupportable; sleep had flown from my pillow; nor could the chearful sun revive me; and, in a week's time, I became so pale and thin, as greatly alarmed my kind parents; and their apprehensions were still

still increased by some visitors, who, on their first arrival, did not know me ; so much was I altered. Touched by my situation, and finding all attempts to console me were unsuccessful, my father, with the greatest tenderness, asked me, “ if I was so strongly attached to “ Mr. Edmondbury, as to prefer him “ without fortune to the much more “ advantageous matches I might expect ; for, that as his sole wish was “ to make me happy, he would be “ directed by my inclination in a point “ so very material to me.” You may believe, my dear Emilia, that my heart overflowed with gratitude at so generous a proof of my father’s affection ; and you cannot be at a loss in supposing my answer, since, if I had had courage, I should have intreated for leave to give that preference which was now allowed me ; but I had not  
flattered

## FILIAL DUTY. 169

flattered myself that there was any chance of obtaining so desirable a permission. The joy and gratitude with which I received this token of my father's love charmed him; and the next day he set out for London in order to find Mr. Edmondbury.

My father enquired at the houses of all Mr. Edmondbury's friends, but could obtain no intelligence; for he had avoided them all, as he says, to spare himself the trouble of resisting the persuasives they might offer against his fixed intentions; but, in a few days, by a fortunate application to one of his tradesmen, my father was informed where he lodged, and got there but two hours before he was to have set out on a voyage to India, he designed trying to mend his fortune, by enlisting among the English

Vol. II. I troops.

troops. He was very much surprised at the sight of his visitor, who soon removed the dejection from his brow, by telling him the purpose of his coming.

Mr. Edmondbury could scarcely believe what he was told, nor instantly determine whether he ought to accept it; generosity and inclination were at war within him; but my kind father found means of reconciling them, a little, I confess, to the detriment of decorum on his daughter's side, too faithfully describing, — what shall I say? I will not name it her weakness, that would be an affront to the object, — her sensibility then; sensibility is a pretty, delicate word, that the nicest female ear will endure, and even a prude condescend to use. By representing that my happiness depended  
on

## FILIAL DUTY. 171

on the success of the step my father had taken, Mr. Edmondbury's generosity was brought over to the side of inclination. The baggage was remanded, the captain satisfied for the loss of his passenger, and the two worthiest men in the world returned to this house together.

I need not tell you that they met with no very cold reception from my mamma and myself, though I felt some constraint, from a consciousness of what had occasioned my lover's return ; and the heightened colour in my cheeks was not meerly the effect of joy. My behaviour was awkward enough, which my good father seeing, and always a friend to the cold bath, thought he could no way so well regulate his conduct as by the method used on such occasions ; and that, by



fousing me at once over head and ears  
 in confusion, he should render every  
 thing after easy, said, "there she is,  
 "Sir, take her; I brought you hi-  
 "ther to save the life of my child;  
 "had I been sure she would have lived  
 "till you had returned with your  
 "share of a Nabob, I might, per-  
 "haps, have left you to pursue your  
 "fortune, though, to say truth, I am  
 "not fond of wealth so acquired; an  
 "empty pocket, and an unstained  
 "sword, are to me more agreeable."  
 and, taking my mamma by the hand,  
 left Mr. Edmondbury and me to-  
 gether.

I shall not attempt to relate what  
 passed in a tête à tête, very agreeable,  
 certainly, to those that composed it,  
 but ill calculated for a recital. The  
 conversation of lovers is generally ri-  
 diculous

FILIAL DUTY. 173

diculous in the eyes of rational people, and bears repetition worse than a jest; cold and sober reason censures rapture as extravagance, and tenderness as folly; and though I know my Emilia is not uninterested in any thing that materially concerns her friend, yet the sensations of friendship have not enough of fire in them, to warm the heart into that proper temperature, requisite to render it at unison with the delirium of lovers; and, without it were so, she must smile at their absurdity, or pity their madness; I shall therefore be silent on all that has passed since our meeting; nor were I otherwise, could I make you comprehend our happiness; I could only give you words; the spirit would evaporate. It may soon become less volatile; for next week we shall bear a different relation to each other than that of lovers, cer-

## 174 THE TEST OF

tainly in name, and observation has taught one so much to fear the possibility of the difference being more than nominal, that I should unwillingly undergo the change, were it not agreed between us, that as soon as we have a due sanction for travelling together, we will make you a visit, and manage it in such a manner, as not to occasion any premature discovery. Do not attempt to dissuade me from putting this design in execution, as all you can say will be to no purpose; no arguments you can urge, nor any discouragements the time of year may produce, can possibly prevent it. Mr. Edmondbury complains as much of my writing, as if the man did not know he will soon have too much of my company; but I must humour him; I dare not offend one who will, in a few days, have the power of re-  
venging

## FILIAL DUTY. 175

venging himself. It would be injudicious to delay my complaisance till it would be a meer duty ; he now receives any proof of it as a favor ; I oblige him, and, at the same time, enjoy the dignity of an obliger, and perhaps an equal pleasure with the obliged ; therefore, my dearest Emily, adieu, till the receipt of your letter gives me other subjects ; in two days I expect it.

I cannot keep my promise of not resuming my pen till I hear from you, though I am in the anxious expectation of that pleasure every hour ; for when the day arrives, the eagerness of my expectation is too great to be expressed by any other word than anxiety. The reason of being in such haste to break silence, is some news that has just reached me. Mr. Leonard, I am

I 4                      told,

176 THE TEST OF

told, at his return home from an excursion he had made, I suppose in search of his fair Dulcinea, found his father just put to bed in a high fever. His life was thought in great danger for several days; but at length his son's tender and unwearied attendance seemed rewarded, by seeing all the symptoms of recovery; but the disease appears to have received only a temporary abatement, and not to be removed; for two days ago he relapsed, and was judged to be in a more dangerous state than ever. The same communicative person, who you may perceive is well informed of the Leonard affairs, told me, that about a week ago, your father discovered a secret correspondence between your sister and the Scotch Baronet I formerly mentioned to you, and that it had occasioned no small fracas; your father stormed,



formed, Mrs. Leonard wept, and Miss Sophia pouted; beyond that, his intelligence did not reach, and the effects of the discovery he might have omitted; they are characteristic, and without any extraordinary sagacity, I could have known them. I pity Mrs. Leonard extremely; I had rather be the keeper of all the wild beasts in the Tower, than of one run-away girl; if ever I am condemned to be the watch and ward of any creature, I pray it may not be of my own species. I have no compassion for Miss Sophia; one error of that kind might have been forgiven her, in consideration of the too great indulgence with which she has been bred up; but the continuance of so shameless and disobedient a conduct is unpardonable. The man must be very bold, or very mercenary, who will venture to take her.

## 178 THE TEST OF

I am afraid my excellent Emilia will not forgive me, when I shall tell her, that melancholy as she may think the two events I have related, I cannot feel duely sorry for them; a secret hope whispering to my heart, that they may put an end to my sweet friend's banishment, restore her to me, and what will give me still more joy, facilitate her union with the only man that can deserve her. Can such a thought suffer a painful sensation to enter my breast? Impossible! Sir Joseph may pay a debt, not untimely, to nature; Miss Sophia may ruin herself, and disgrace her sex, as well, or better, at this time than at any other; for one day or other she will certainly do it; but how can I grieve? Do not chide me. Is it not our duty to bring good out of evil? Believe me, I would not withhold one healing draught from  
poor

poor Sir Joseph, nor hire Miss Sophia a chaise for her flight; but if the spirit of the one, and the body of the other, will take wing, may I not anticipate the good consequences in pleasing reflexion? May I not—but what may I, or what can I now do, but open the dear letter? How does this joyous moment repay me for the pains of tedious expectation!

“Though mountains meet not, lovers may,” is a saying no less true for being vulgar; and so he has at last discovered your retreat. I suppose love is painted blind to shew the little occasion he has for eyes; eyes are poor things in comparison to a lover’s assiduity. Argus might have looked his hundred ways at once for a whole century, and never found you; but Mr. Leonard went by a surer guide.

## 180 THE TEST OF

his heart led him; and, true as the needle to the pole, he discovered his fair recluse, through all her intricacies. The venerable Mr. Lewis must make an odd figure in the scene you exhibited at first meeting; he seems to me, indeed, to have been *de trop* just at that time; but he found a means of rendering himself a very agreeable part of the company. He was really very useful, perfectly com-  
mode. I rejoice in this adventure; solitude is dismal without one; your spirits must have stagnated by this time had it not been for this interview. I wished you an adventure, but not foreseeing one so agreeable, should have been contented, though Caliban had been the person to dignify your retreat by some alarming enterprize, suggested by the soul of a savage; on condition you had escaped every evil,  
but

## FILIAL DUTY. 181

but such fears as might have given an air of romance to your strange retirement. Indeed I was not without hope that his "*gallantry-robust*" might have reduced you to fly for safety to more civilized scenes, and have brought you back to your domestic mansion; I would then have preferred him in my grateful remembrance to a whole herd of beaux, and have thought him made to that end; as some ingenious persons maintain that lions are created only in order to drive man out deserts into society.

I perceive that woods, groves, and purling streams, arbors, and solitude, are very efficacious things, however the prudent may try to baffle their effects. What useless trouble have you given yourself in this way, my little philosopher? Had you enjoyed all  
the



the reveries your inclination or solitude tempted you to indulge, you could not have grown more tender than you appear by your letter, notwithstanding all your reasonings and conflicts, your flights and your victories. While you lived in the world, it would have been impossible to have extracted from you so warm an acknowledgement of your affection to any man; but this pastoral life has tenderized you prodigiously. I am not sorry for it, as I foresee your vexations are nearly come to a period: and I would wish your joys to be as refined, as sublime, as possible. The two events I have related to you; and Mr. Leonard's resolution render this so evident, that I lay aside the thoughts of making you a visit, persuaded that my dearest friend will, in a very short time,

## FILIAL DUTY. 1831

time, be restored to her most tenderly affectionate

CHARLOTTE ARLINGTON.

---

### LETTER XXXI.

Miss EMILIA LEONARD to Mrs.  
EDMONDBURY.

**A**CCCEPT, my dearest Mrs. Edmondbury, for such I imagine you now are, my sincerest, my warmest congratulations on your nuptials, and my ardent wishes for your future happiness; that they will be gratified I little doubt. I well know the sweetness of your temper, and the goodness of your heart, the excellence of Mr. Edmondbury's character, and the amiableness of his manners; how  
then

then can I harbour any fears! It is indeed often observed, that celebrated beauties do not make the best wives. Having been the objects of general admiration, the sober, rational pleasure a husband takes in beholding them, sometimes appears to them a sensation inadequate to their charms; and wholesome, nay even affectionate truths, will sound harsh to an ear vitiated by flattery; but I am convinced my Charlotte's good sense secures her from falling into such follies; permit me, though you are now encircled by all the splendor and dignity of a bride, still to call you by a name I have so long loved; beside, you know the dislike I always had to that intollerable long one you have assumed; had it appertained to any other man I could not easily have consented to the marriage. If I believed it possible for a  
man

## FILIAL DUTY. 185

man who has so lately obtained you, to listen to a word spoken by any other woman, I would address some congratulations to Mr. Edmondbury, and I fancy they would rise towards the sublime; for if I endeavoured to adapt my language to the idea I form of his happiness, the terms would certainly run very high. I flatter myself, partly in compliance with your suggestions, that it will not be long before I have an opportunity of attempting to convince him, that he, and my ever dear Charlotte, will henceforward go hand in hand in my heart.

Mr. Arlington's 'generous and affectionate conduct filled me with excess of joy; though were I the philosopher you call me, I should not welcome excess, however joyful. I longed for some friend of your's, to  
whom

## 186 THE TEST OF

whom to communicate the delight I felt, and thereby increase my own ; but that being unattainable, I overpowered Mr. Lewis with the expressions of it, till he said, " I perceive, " Madam, your equanimity is rather " acquired than natural ; for not being as much on your guard in what " relates to your friends, as to yourself, it seems to have forsaken you," adding with a smile, " indeed I have " of late perceived it can absent itself." However, though this might bear the air of a reproof, he indulged me with great good-nature in talking of the event that rendered me so happy ; and appeared a sincere sharer in my joy.

The latter part of your letter gave me as much concern as my heart could then feel ; your happiness having rendered it less susceptible of pain than usual ;



## FILIAL DUTY. 187

usual ; yet I should be a hypocrite were I to deny that some flattering hopes will often arise, which are very consolatory. I am truly sorry for Sir Joseph, his partiality for me, however absurd, deserves my gratitude ; intimate connexion had taught me to have a regard for him, but I feel most from the consideration of what his son will suffer, who loves him with all the affection due to a worthy parent ; looked with reverence on his good qualities, and turned his eyes from his faults and follies. My mother tells me in her letter, that my father had received a few lines from Mr. Leonard, signifying, that he had intended waiting upon him to acknowledge an offence he had committed, and to sue for pardon, but was prevented by the dangerous illness with which his father was afflicted ; and that the accounts they had since received,

## 188 THE TEST OF

received were such as gave them little hopes of Sir Joseph's recovery. She also confirms what you told me of Miss Sophia's correspondence with Sir Andrew Donaldson; which grieves me extremely; I flattered myself she had been cured of much follies, and would not again run headlong to her destruction. Though my affection for her is not so tender as it might have been, had she suffered me to live with her in the frank and easy intercourse of a sister, yet it is strong enough to feel great pain from any wrong step she may take. I fear her romance will not end here; neither reason, nor the authority of a parent can make any strong impression upon her; she abuses indulgence; and rigour would only add obstinacy to perverseness and folly; yet my heart aches for her when I consider how much she is to be pitied;  
for

## FILIAL DUTY. 189

for her faults seem principally owing to the errors in her education : one who in infancy is left to be governed by her own caprice, I am apt to believe will scarcely submit to reason in her more advanced years.

You did my Caliban too much honour in supposing he could furnish me with an adventure, except you will allow, that being beaten is one, and surely it is so ; and what few others can boast of, even since Novels became so numerous ; for I do not recollect any Heroine in all the productions of fancy that had her bones broke by the robust arm of her angry enamorado. So new and so elegant an incident may possibly ornament my story, for the whole race of ap Rees are angry, and the young Squire's wrath bearing a proper proportion to his love, he is in a downright fury. The occasion is

## 190 THE TEST OF

as follows; Mr. ap Rees, like a kind father, indulgent to so hopeful a son and heir, enquired of Mr. Lewis for some intelligence concerning my birth, parentage, and fortune; hinting his son's inclination to make his addressee to me, if they answered my appearance. Mr. Lewis, to save me from the perplexity this might occasion, told them ingenuously, that he knew there were other views for me; and was sure I would not accept any proposal they could make.

Hereupon rose the blood of the ap Rees; "Are they of a race to be despised! Is not son Griff a match for a princess! he who is of a family that has been related to more kings than they suppose. I can reckon grandfathers! They are ashamed of their condescension in thinking of

“ of marryiug into a family, perhaps  
 “ of yesterday, meer upstarts, chil-  
 “ dren of the earth ; they too, who  
 “ are descended in a right line from  
 “ Adam and Eve ; but humility was  
 “ always their weakness : they have  
 “ often been blamed for not setting a  
 “ due value upon themselves, and  
 “ it certainly is a fault ; but when  
 “ people have the ill fortune to become  
 “ too humble, it is difficult to con-  
 “ quer it, though they are sensible  
 “ how great a failing it is.” Thus  
 the seniors of the family expressed  
 themselves ; but son Griff was too an-  
 gry to express himself at all, at least  
 not in more words than Polypheme,  
 and I have fancied him ever since sing-  
 ing. “ I cannot, cannot bear.” *Hur*  
 was really a most luckless *Wight* to  
 take, as he says, a *fancy* to me. I  
 must have, as much humility as the ap  
 Rees



Rees charge themselves with, to imagine myself formed for such a taste as his should be. I have often wished to ask him, as Benedict does Beatrice, "for which of my fine parts did you first fall in love with me?" I should as soon have suspected myself likely to make an impression on the heart of a stag or an ox; and should be sorry the fact has proved otherwise, were I not persuaded the wound is only skin deep, and easily healed; his pride being more hurt than his love by the disappointment,

The indignation of the ap Rees is not the only amusement love has given me since I wrote last. I told you I suspected my poor Peggy was not wiser than we finer girls. I found her, some days ago, weeping so violently, that I could no longer forbear enquiring

ing into the cause of her uneasiness. Bashfulness and sobbing prevented her for some time from satisfying my curiosity ; but at length I learnt the usual story ; an attachment to a young man who had long made love to her, but whose father refused his consent to their marriage, insisting on his son's wedding the daughter of a neighbouring farmer, who will have about ten goats for her fortune ; whereas Peggy has not so much as a kid. How dangerous is wealth ! since so small a portion of it can tempt a father to render his son unhappy ! I shall behold my companionable goats with less complacency. I thought so trifling a possession could not conquer any virtue.

When I found I might dry the tears I compassionated, I desired the poor girl to be comforted ; and if she

would direct me the way to find this mercenary man, he should perceive we would not be outdone in goats. You may imagine she was not slow in complying. The walk was beyond what I usually take, but my errand was too agreeable to suffer me to feel weary. I found the old man and his son together, disputing the point in good Welch. They stopped on my entrance; I had seen the young man frequently at my door. On my speaking English, he told me his father did not understand it: I took advantage of that circumstance, to enquire into his sentiments towards Peggy; and, finding they corresponded perfectly with her's towards him, I applied to the old man in his own language; and asked him, "why he refused to consent to the union of the two young people who had placed their happi-

“ nefs in the poffeffion of each other ?”  
 He answered, that, “ all young peo-  
 “ ple were fools, and thought there  
 “ was no pleasure but in courting, till  
 “ from that notion they had brought  
 “ themselves into poverty ; and then  
 “ they found, to their coft, there are  
 “ other things more neceffary. He  
 “ could not but fay, Peggy was pret-  
 “ tier than the girl he had chosen for  
 “ his fon ; ſhe might alfo be prefe-  
 “ rable in other refpects ; but that  
 “ he had lived long enough in the  
 “ world, to know that there was not  
 “ the worth of fix goats difference  
 “ between any two women. What  
 “ could his fon do with a girl who he  
 “ ſuppoſed would bring him kids e-  
 “ nough, though ſhe had no ſtock to  
 “ produce kids to feed thoſe ſhe gave  
 “ birth to.” I could not forbear ſmil-  
 ing at the old man’s levelling opinion,

196 THE TEST OF

which was mixed with a good deal of truth ; and he observing it, added, “ you may laugh if you please, but a “ woman with goats is always better “ than a woman without.”

To make the old man angry did not suit my purpose, so I gulped down the risings of female pride, and told him, if he had no other objection to Peggy than her deficiency in that article, I could give goats, and still better things, if that would content him. “ No doubt but it will,” said he, “ the young woman’s very well for “ a woman ; I have nothing to say “ against her ; only I chuse when my “ son marries, he should have some- “ thing more than a woman ; they are “ not such choice things that a man “ need reduce himself to starving “ for one. My wife, rest her soul ! I

“ am



“ am sure she would never let mine  
 “ rest while she lived, brought me a  
 “ pretty stock, or I should have  
 “ thought I had a bad bargain. Be-  
 “ fore I had been married to her a  
 “ month, I would have given her  
 “ *gratis* to any one that would have  
 “ taken her; but I did not repent of  
 “ my marriage; for the cattle she  
 “ brought throve purely, were to-  
 “ wardly, and profitable, and bred  
 “ faster than she did, and so I was  
 “ never afraid of her kidding.”

As I was not curious to learn all  
 that passed in his mind, during a state  
 which did not seem to have left any  
 very pleasing remembrance behind it,  
 I asked him, if, on the performance  
 of my promise, he was willing to let  
 his son marry Peggy as soon as it  
 could be conveniently settled; and, if

he had any doubts of my sincerity, I was ready to remove them, by depositing a sum of money equal to what I had engaged for, in the hands of Mr. Lewis, or the people where I lodged; to whom I had no objection. "No, no," replied the gruff old man, "I can take your word; I have heard a power of good of you, and believe you are very good for a woman; do you see; ay, by St. Taffy, one of the best of them: I used to say, bad is the best, but I will not say so again, till I see a little more of you; you are very free of your money I know; folks call it charity;—it may be so for any thing I know;—time will shew."—I wish, my cousin, you understood Welch; I assure you the dialogue loses sadly by my translation.

Having

Having thus settled the matter, I took my leave. No great ceremony was necessary, you may suppose, with so frank a personage. His son followed me almost choaked with joy. Peggy waited for me at a little distance, and soon learnt my success. The gratitude of the young people was beyond bounds, though by no means so fluent as the old man's cooler speech.

At my desire, the lovers have found a little farm; an English person would laugh to hear it called one, but there are still less in this country. I am to stock it for them, and when they can enter upon it they are to marry; though Peggy insists on not leaving me while I continue in Wales. Her lover approves her resolution, and declares he will not solicit her to break it; but if I find I am likely to continue long here, I shall not put their gratitude to so hard a trial. My mother indeed encourages me, to

200 THE TEST OF

hope that I shall be speedily recalled. No pleasure is unallayed by pain ; I already tremble at the thoughts of leaving my excellent, my venerable friend, Mr. Lewis ; it will be a severe affliction to me ; but the dear friends to whom I shall return will be my consolation : Humanity will be his ; the belief that I am going to be happy in the society of those I love better than my life, will reconcile him to the departure of one he honours with paternal affection. He will ever live in my heart and in my memory ; ever be the object of my highest esteem and gratitude ; you, my sweet friend I know will often indulge me in talking of him, and even love him in consideration of his goodness to,

Your ever sincerely affectionate

EMILIA LEONARD.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXXII.

Mrs. EDMONBURY to Miss EMILIA  
LEONARD.

**M**ANY thanks to my dear Emilia for her kind congratulations; the sincere good wishes of such a heart as her's are truly valuable, and give the highest pleasure, while the unmeaning compliments of the greatest part of the world tire or disgust, the receiver. Your congratulations arrived in good time, I had then been married two days, but had your letter come as long before it would not have been less acceptable, for my spirits wanted such a cordial. As the most important day of my life approached, my apprehensions grew so great, that I was tempted to wish

K 5

Mr.



Mr. Edmondbury at the East-Indies. To have all one's happiness in this world, and possibly in the next, depend on the cast of one die, is surely enough to deter a person from throwing it; but my fears came too late, I was not at liberty to refuse taking my chance, and my apprehensions arose more from a distrust of myself, than of him, who was to be my partner in this great lottery. You seem also to have some doubts of me; and I do not wonder at it: the condition of a wife is full of duties, and hitherto I have had occasion to practise but few. I am sensible of the difficulties that may attend such a change in situation, and I hope I shall therefore be the more able to acquit myself as I ought; for those must be in much danger who think they are to alter nothing but their names; nor are those very safe, however strong their sense of duty, to whom

whom every duty is accompanied by a sacrifice of their own will. Far easier is my lot! what difficulty can I find in relinquishing all the follies of my single state; the love of admiration, and the little arts to gain it, who have the honest rational approbation of the only heart I ever really wished to possess? can I regret the loss of gay amusements (for I hope I shall never think of frequenting them as I have hitherto done, though I am not likely to be taken quite from them) when I cannot go abroad without being deprived of far better company than I can meet with any where but at home? even oeconomy will receive charms from the consideration that I am serving Mr. Edmond-bury. That wife must be miserable, who aims at any other happiness than what is to be found in her own family.

mily. It is possible, I fear too probable, she may not find it there; but she certainly can find it no where else. A domestic life I am persuaded affords the greatest happiness, if we conduct ourselves in it as we ought; and have the good fortune of being united with one who *deserves* and *returns* our affection: all is calm content, heart-felt joy; every hour gives pleasure as it passes, and satisfaction on the review. Do not imagine that I form these notions from what I at present enjoy; I am not so weak as to expect my husband will be always my lover; hitherto he has not laid aside that character, on the contrary, appears to have added an increased degree of tenderness to it; but passion must decay; I expect his will soon do so, and though it may be impossible not to wish the lover might  
always.

always remain, yet I hope I shall never shew that I am mortified at his being turned into a sober husband; but consider it as the necessary condition of humanity, and what a wife will not want much fortitude to support with content, if esteem takes the place of passion, and retains some of the tenderness which accompanied the other. This unavoidable change I consider, however, as some trial, and imagine that it frequently destroys the happiness that might be enjoyed, if a woman prepared her mind to receive it well; but when she resents an abatement of love, she drives away the remainder, and all esteem for her along with it. I should not have dwelt so long on this subject, which through a proper employment for my thoughts, is very unnecessary in a letter.

letter to you, but to shew you that I am not unmindful of the calls of duty; and to lessen any fears you may have of my continuing the same dissipated thing I have been: had I not been sensible of the impropriety of such a conduct, I might have been less averse to matrimony than I was, till I met with one man who convinced me that I should be a great gainer in exchanging

“All the woman world admire;  
“Follies that vex, and vanities that tire,”

for his conversation.

Had I not been very desirous of displaying my gravity, I should certainly have made more haste to tell you of the greatest addition my happiness could receive, after that fortunate  
hour



hour that gave my hand to Mr. Edmonbury. The day succeeding our marriage he wrote to Sir Edward, intreating his pardon for an offence he would not on any consideration have given him, had not his addressee to me received that sanction from his approbation, which had entirely engaged both Sir Edward's honour and his own. He gave him every assurance of his duty, if he would again look on him as his son; adding, that had he not refused ever again to behold him in that light, he would not have entered into so important an engagement without his consent. He told him my father's generous behaviour, and in short omitted nothing he thought could pacify him.

Sir Edward had no sooner read the letter, than he sent for the servant who

who brought it, and reading it before him, threw it into the fire, ordering him to return such a message to his son; as I am not willing to repeat; — I hope even to forget it. Mr. Edmondbury was shocked when he received it, and would have made another attempt to mitigate Sir Edward's anger; but my father persuaded him from it, and advised, that he should give him time to cool, and to consider the affair more maturely. In a week after Mr. Edmondbury received a letter from Sir Edward, complaining of his want of duty in refusing Lady Mary; and written in the spirit of bitterness, though clear from any censure on account of his marriage with me. This was judged a proof that his anger was abated, since he chose to open the way to a negociation, though he would not hold out any tokens

of peace; therefore it was thought adviseable that Mr. Edmonbury and myself should wait upon him, and try to compleat the pacification.

As I have a natural dread of an angry man, far beyond what I have of any wild beast (how thankful ought I to be to Providence that I am not yoked to a passionate mate) I was not very fond of this visit; but I concealed my reluctance, and we set out. The baronet was at home, gave us a very stern reception, and a stormy day ensued; wherein the son gave such proofs of calmness and patience, as charmed me too much to suffer me to grieve, as I ought to have done, for the trial to which his virtues were exposed. His father was wild with passion; while Mr. Edmonbury's answers were reasonable and respectful.

ful. In the evening the storm subsided; and we received a surly offer of a bed; which we accepted. Sir Edward renewed his reproaches the next morning after breakfast, having till then kept inviolable silence, and a stern brow. But he had not gone on long in his angry strain, before a very worthy neighbour (privately sent by my father) came in, which gave a turn to the conversation. We all walked out together; and the gentleman contrived to keep up discourse till dinner, on indifferent subjects. As soon as that was over, believing that a hearty meal has a good effect on the temper, he took occasion to congratulate us on our marriage; and addressing compliments to Sir Edward to the same effect, made him break out afresh. Our good friend then undertook our defence, and gave such strong reasons

## FILIAL DUTY. 211

reasons why the baronet should be pleased with what we had done, that after about three hours labour, he brought him to grant us a very hearty pardon; and glad to be quit of so disagreeable a companion as anger, he got into perfect good humour, and engaged to attend us the next day to dine with my father and mother, on condition we would return home with him; with which we complied. We remained a week at his house; and when we took our leave, he presented us with the writings of a part of his estate to the amount of fifteen hundred pounds per annum, the sum he had originally proposed to settle; desiring that a handsome jointure might be secured to me; not only proportioned to my fortune, but also to the generosity of my conduct towards my husband. We are now on the best terms imaginable;



nable; the old gentleman has not been so happy since he first endeavoured to break off the affair between his son and me, and we have nothing more to desire but the return of my Emilia, and the completion of her wishes. We are at present in treaty for a very pretty house adjacent to Mr. Edmonbury's estate, only nine miles from my father's, and about a dozen from Sir Edward's.

Having brought my affairs to a very comfortable period, I shall now take some notice of my sweet friend's letter. I wish you joy of the pleasure you have had in serving two worthy young people. In that action I see the heart of my Emilia, and I the better understand a thing your father said when he made us a visit on our marriage. The conversation turning  
on

on the dearneſs of proviſions, my father obſerved that whoever ſought for a cheap place, would meet with a diſappointment if they ſtopped ſhort of Scotland or Wales; and yet, ſaid Mr Leonard with a ſmile, “ I know  
 “ a perſon, who in the latter has con-  
 “ trived to ſpend as much money  
 “ as ſhe might have lived upon in  
 “ great figure in London, for the  
 “ ſame ſpace of time;” but added, looking ſlily at me, “ underſtand  
 “ I do not blame her; ſhe had liberty  
 “ to draw for any ſums ſhe pleaſed;  
 “ and deſerved more, for the readineſs  
 “ of her obedience; I am ſure what-  
 “ ever ſhe ſpends is well diſpoſed of.”  
 If you have done many of theſe actions his purſe may well feel it; but, as he ſays, you deſerve it; he can afford it; and the perſons on whom you beſtow it, want it: Who then can cenſure?

Who

Who is there that should not applaud you? I ought sooner to have mentioned that poor Sir Joseph died ten days ago. I heard that his son was much afflicted, but yet had comforted his father's dependants by the most substantial consolations. More sympathy you see: You were, as Mr. Lewis observes, certainly made for each other.

By a letter from your mother to mine, we are just informed, that Miss Sophia went off the night before last, after the family was in bed; she took her flight through the window, which she no doubt would have chosen had all the doors been set open. It is supposed she is gone towards Scotland. This event deprives us of the pleasure we hoped

of seeing Mrs. Leonard to-morrow. The house, she says, is in confusion; but mentions no measures that are taken. Adieu, my dearest Emilia, I have seized every leisure moment that offered to write this letter, and have now no more at command than will just suffice to assure my dear friend that I am ever her most

Sincerely affectionate

C. EDMONBURY.

LETTER

## L E T T E R XXXIII.

Miss EMILIA LEONARD to Mrs.  
EDMONBURY.

**H**OW happy would the last packet of letters I received have made me, had not my joy been much damped by poor Sophia's misconduct ! My mother writes me word that my return home is at hand, being delayed only by a journey my father is obliged to take to London in consequence of his daughter's elopement ; and as soon as that business is over they will set out to fetch me ; not chusing to trust me to travel alone at this time of the year. I long for the completion of this promise ; yet tremble, lest my dear mother may suffer by the badness of  
of



## FILIAL DUTY. 217

of the roads or weather; this is one  
allay to my pleasure; but the consi-  
deration of poor Sophia's having just  
entered, too probably, a series of mis-  
fortunes, greatly afflicts me. How  
strange an infatuation, to put her  
happiness into the power of a man,  
of whom she knew nothing, but the  
little that can be learnt at balls, and  
in a clandestine correspondence, where  
every deceit may be practised, as the  
unhappy victim cannot even venture  
to enquire his general character, for  
fear of exciting suspicion of the interest  
she takes in it! I heartily pray that  
she may not feel the heaviest punish-  
ments of the crime of disobedience  
to parents; though I believe there  
are few sins that are so seldom com-  
mitted with impunity in this life.  
May I be blessed with the power  
of relieving her from some of the  
VOL. II. L many

many evils my fears foresee for her! since however blameable her conduct, I shall ever remember she is my sister; and consider the disadvantages of her education as some excuse for her follies. I tremble when I think that you or I, my Charlotte, might, so circumstanced, have acted as imprudent, as criminal a part. How thankful than ought we to be to Providence for not having thus exposed us to such irretrievable misfortunes! Surely there is nothing for which we ought to be more grateful than for wise and tender parents, who knew how to temper kind indulgence with necessary severity; and condescended to lead us gently by the hand through the slippery paths of youth. But no more of this at present; I could wish to exclude the poor mistaken girl from my thoughts, till it is in my power to be useful to her.

I am

## FILIAL DUTY. 219

I am making preparations for my departure; and, as one of the most necessary affairs I have to transact, hastning the marriage of my Peggy; tho' I have accepted her offer, indeed her earnest desire, of staying with me till I leave this place. Their house is putting in order, their furniture is bought, their stock bargained for, the impliments of husbandry almost finished; four cows, a dozen goats, some pigs, and poultry, make the sum-total of their little stock. I could, without expence, have made her very fine at her wedding, by some half worn-out cloaths, but I thought if by lace or silk I awakened her vanity, I should make her as pernicious a present as Hercules received from his jealous Dejanira, and the poison would adhere as closely to her. Her bridals

therefore are to be a white callico gown and plain muslin linen. I have likewise given her a fine flowered cotton I wore in the summer; and bought her a good rustic wardrobe, of such cloaths as will suit her humble and laborious situation, in the different seasons of the year; with a large stock of linen. Mr. Lewis has done the same for her Collin, whose wedding coat is a new white drap. He is really a well-looking young man; his countenance seems the very seat of health and honest simplicity; his person not amiss, though rather short, and the tenderness of his affection seems to have refined his mind, for in his behaviour to her a delicacy appears beyond what his education promises. He adores his Peggy; and she, poor girl, is so glad he adores her, and does so honestly repay him with a reciprocal

cal adoration, that I see before my eyes a better representation of pastoral love than ever poet drew in eclogue.

I believe they are at present the two happiest people in the world. And why should they not; simplicity is the most amiable companion of love; and to those born in a cottage, certainly a cottage is the safest habitation for it; though when Miss in a ball room fancies she should find it so, a very short experience would fatally convince her of her error. The innocence, and ignorance of the cottager, are requisites for the happiness of the inhabitants of the humble roof. Love will sometimes silence other passions; but far from expelling them the human breast, it weakens them so very little, that at the first symptom of decay, or even langour in their tyrant, they rise again



with renewed vigor, and drive him away to so great a distance that he never finds his road back.

How much am I obliged to my father for the kind manner in which he spoke of the demands I have made on his purse! but that you may not think them greater on account of my maid's marriage than they really were, I must tell you, that Mr. Lewis insisted on giving the bridegroom the implements of husbandry as well as his cloaths, so that all I have done has not cost me much above fifty pounds.

Nothing less than the friends to whom I am going to be re-united could enable me to support the thought of bidding, perhaps, an eternal adieu to Mr. Lewis; the worthy man feels it with the sensibility which constitutes  
the

the great charm of our softer sex; yet, in the midst of his regret, which he says is as great as ever parent felt at parting with his only child, he tenderly rejoices in my approaching happiness; and will not suffer me to harbour a doubt but that my return home will soon be followed by an union with my cousin, now Sir Charles Leonard; though I have not yet received a line from him, which I think very strange.

My dear Charlotte's sentiments on the new way of life into which she has entered are no other than I expected. I was too well acquainted with the goodness of your understanding, and the excellence of your heart, to believe you would retain as a wife any of the vivacity which would not suit that character, though not only innocent

but amiable in a single woman of your age. What in one was agreeable gaiety, in the other would be levity: to be admired was your amusement, to deserve respect is now your duty; and one is as easy to you as the other. A woman is very blind to her interest who thinks she loses by the exchange. You say very truly you make no sacrifice, but I am certain had you entered into the marriage state with a man far less amiable, you would have preserved the same conduct, though not with the same pleasure. A giddy, dissipated wife, is the most despicable of beings; flying from the happiness she might enjoy, seeking it were it is never to be found; despised equally by her husband and by those who care for her; suspected, though innocent; by none more censured than by those who flatter her. She violates her duty, destroys her happiness, forfeits

feels her character; and, for what?—  
 The admiration of coxcombs, whose  
 addresses are an insult, and the enjoy-  
 ment of such follies, “As Virtue flies  
 “from and disdains.” What, in reality,  
 can be more deplorable than her situa-  
 tion? except it be the same woman  
 when she can no longer make a plea-  
 sing part of the gay, giddy, scene:—  
 Her personal charms faded, her under-  
 standing contaminated by folly, not  
 to say vice; despised by the worthless  
 part of mankind, avoided by the good,  
 she still flutters on; incapable of giv-  
 ing pleasure; without any chance of  
 receiving it; “haunting the places  
 “where her honour died,” she sinks  
 into neglect, scarcely of consequence  
 enough to be censured. I well knew you  
 were not formed for one of these wretched  
 beings: your conduct was always  
 intepachable; and, when called to

the exercise of more extensive duties, must be respectable.

I never could well understand the general love of dissipation; but it has appeared most strange to me since I have been in my solitude; as I never had so good a proof, that time can never hang heavy on our hands, if we will but employ it. Though for above a month past, the weather has been so bad that I have not been able to go out of the house, and am frequently deprived by it of the pleasure of seeing Mr. Lewis, yet the length of the day has never sufficed to my wishes. I rise before the sun; yet to go to bed at a sober hour is a great effort of my reason, as my inclination would induce me to sit up late. I oblige myself to a little change of employment, in consideration of my health, which though good,



good, not being strong, might suffer by applying too long to the same thing; otherwise my books would entirely engage me, for I find it impossible to be tired of reading, as I can suit my subject to the temper of my mind; and though painting views I took in summer, is too agreeable an amusement for me to go to with regret, yet I should grow tired of it were it my sole employment: when my eyes admonish me, I turn to my harpsichord, or my harp; but chiefly the former, the portability of the latter being no longer a convenience; and these afford me entertainment, and give rest to my sight. I always dedicate half an hour, or more, to music after dinner, as application at that time might be hurtful; and few are the idle words I shall have to repent of here. Though the badness of the weather has often prevented

Mr. Lewis from coming, it has made me amends by detaining him here some whole days, when he has taken early advantage of a fair hour: on those occasions much of our time passes in reading, greatly to my instruction; as I always chuse books wherein there is something for him to explain to me, or such as are considerably improved by his observations upon them. We intermix conversation with our reading, and our books furnish us with variety of subjects useful to me, and agreeable to him, as he takes great pleasure in improving me. I cannot forbear censuring myself for the joy I feel at my approaching departure; for certainly I should find the benefit all my life of living here a year or two longer; but the delight I shall receive at being restored to my friends, prevails over the dictates of prudence. Prudence

tells.

tells me—what would it tell me!—it is flown away with all its sober descants, driven far hence by the approach of Sir Charles, who I see riding into the yard, accompanied by my good uncle. I cannot stay to bid my dearest Charlotte properly farewell. I fly, they are just alighting.

If when I wrote the former part of my letter I was in good humour with my solitude, imagine how well pleased with it I must now be. Oh! my sweet friend how delightfully have the last five days glided away! But you will wish to know the cause of that apparition which made me break off so abruptly, take it then as follows. A week ago Sir Charles Leonard went to my father's, and acquainting them with his desire of entering into that degree of relationship which had been

so long wished, though by other means, found no difficulty in procuring their full consent: and learning their intentions of fetching me home, intreated that he might be deputed to perform that office, whereby they would hasten my return, and save themselves a fatiguing journey, while they gave him inexpressible pleasure. This likewise met with their acquiescence, only having some scruples in regard to the decorum of our travelling together; my uncle, who was there, offered to accompany him and they set forward directly. What pure unmixed joy we felt at this meeting, free from anxiety, fear, or doubt! I think I shall always celebrate the anniversary as an annual jubilee. Though I told you I was preparing for my departure, I was not so ready but that some delay was still necessary. Neither Sir Charles,

or

nor

nor my uncle were in humour to form objections. Mr. Lewis desired them to be his guest at night, and they have passed every day with me; which has not much forwarded my proceedings: but I am so well satisfied with my present situation, that I believe I should have used less diligence, had I not feared to disappoint the kind expectations of my parents; who may have supposed I should make more haste.

I had commissioned Mr. Lewis to mediate such a sort of peace between me and the ap-Rees, as might suffer me to make them a farewell visit, and return my thanks for the civilities I had received, which were certainly due; for I am obliged even to their son for his unmerited and unwished regard; whatever turn his anger took upon a disappointment



disappointment so mortifying to his pride. My Friend succeeded; and two days ago I paid the visit; which was well taken, as indeed it ought, since it cost me dear, being obliged to leave Sir Charles at home, as he could not properly accompany us. The illustrious family condescended to come the next day and attend Peggy's wedding; which we celebrated with general satisfaction, and some festivity. Mr. ap-Rees and Sir Charles led the bride into church; Miss ap-Rees and I paid the same compliment to the bridegroom; and Mr. Lewis gave her away. The innocent simplicity of her air, rendered her pretty person so amiable, that the gentlemen with great sincerity gave high congratulations to her husband, whose joy seemed too perfect to want any sharers in it. In the evening we had a little ball. Mr.

ap-

ap-Rees and his lady performed a Saraband; Sir Charles danced a couple of country dances with the bride, Mr. ap-Rees with me, and the youngest Mills ap-Rees, obligingly, did the same favor to the bridegroom. We then retired; and left them to proceed in their ball with less form. Every one in the company brought some little present to the new married pair; Sir Charles's appeared of no higher value than the rest, but in it was twenty guineas, in homely but useful coin, which will make a greater addition to their happiness half a year hence, than they could receive from it at that moment, when nothing more seemed wanting to their felicity. The moon lighted home my visitants, and the ap-Rees took a very cordial leave of me: the Misses I am sure forgave me the preference I had shewn to Sir Charles; for they

whispered

## 234 THE TEST OF

whispered me that he was "the most  
 "sweetest, beautifullest, genteelest,  
 "charmingest man; they ever saw in  
 "their lives." Even the old lady said,  
 "he was indeed a fine, lovely gentle-  
 "man;" and drawing up her head,  
 and endeavouring to soften her jolly  
 rosy face with a languishing look, added  
 "that he brought to her mind a gen-  
 "tleman who in her youth was passi-  
 "onately in love with her." To this  
 resemblance, possibly, he owed her  
 great desire of dancing her saraband  
 with him; when he pleaded incapa-  
 city she insisted on a louvre; and  
 I believe his resistance would have  
 been vain, had she not recollected that  
 she had left her castnets behind, and  
 without them it would have lost half  
 its grace. I wished I could have pre-  
 vented her from figuring so conspi-  
 cuously at my little ball; I felt as if  
 by

## FILIAL DUTY. 235

by making it I had a hand in her exposing herself to ridicule; but I found it impossible without affronting her. This uneasy sensation secured my gravity. Sir Charles, my uncle, and Mr. Lewis behaved as well as I could expect; her family were charmed with her graces; and the lower part of our company thought it very fine, though a little dull; thus it went off better than could be hoped.

My baggage went to day; an equipage is arrived for us, and to-morrow morning we depart. Mr. Lewis has the goodness to accompany us to the Aust passage; and has promised us a yearly visit, while his age allows him strength to perform it; this will a little enable me to bear the pain of leaving him; without that hope I know not how I should support it.

Let

236 THE TEST OF

Let me not be long at home, my dearest Charlotte, before I have the joy of seeing you. Say every thing you can from me to Mr. Edmondbury, to prevail with him to conduct you thither; or rather say the most persuasive things your friendship for me can inspire, and I am certain they will be more prevalent with him. It would be ungenerous in him not to impart a little of the happiness he enjoys from your society to your ever

Tenderly affectionate friend

EMILIA LEANOR D.

LETTER



LETTER XXXIV.

Mrs. EDMONDBURY to Mr. EDMON-  
BURY.

Best and dearest of men,

**M**R S. Leonard desires I will  
return her thanks for your  
goodness, in suffering me to obey her  
summons, on the weighty business of  
chusing her daughter's wedding cloaths.  
She could not have put this office into  
better hands, for as no one has so  
high a sense of the value of the favor  
you granted, no one could express it  
in such adequate terms; yet I do not  
think it prudent to flatter you too much  
upon it, as I do not wish you to be  
very lavish of such an obligation. I  
never admired the generosity of that  
Roman custom of a man's lending his  
wife

## 238 THE TEST OF

wife to his friend, and I find I now do not even like to be lent to a woman, except you will be so good as to lend yourself at the same time. I do not desire to be current coin, I had rather be treasured up in your possession, like some valuable medal, or grandmother's presented pocket piece. What benefit do I receive from seeing again the sweetest of friends, if I must purchase it by the pain of being absent from my heart's dear Harry! you can not imagine the awkward situation of this same heart of mine; half of it so glad, the other half so sorry. I do not like such discord; come then, my love, and turn it into harmony; set all my affections at unison; and let me enjoy at once every earthly blessing. But I forget my obedience, a sad offence in a wife! you bade me write you word how I found my Emilia in health and spirits,

FILIAL DUTY. 239

spirits, after her long solitude; may, I ever obey with as much pleasure as I do now!

In two days we dispatched the mighty affair of cloaths; and all the thousand nameless things that go to the decking of a lady. The day after our return, arrived my sweet friend, more beautiful, more lovely, than ever. As we were in the back part of the house, and did not expect her so soon by several hours, we learnt her arrival only from her appearance on the opening of the door. Mrs. Leonard, overcome with surprize and joy, fell back in her chair lifeless; poor Emilia's agitations were so violent, she would have sunk on the floor, had not my embracing arms supported her. A flood of tears came to her relief, and, after pressing me to her bosom, she  
flew

flew to her mother, whom her caresses soon restored to life. Tears served in the place of words to tell their mutual joy. Not to be deprived of some share in my lovely friend, I seized one of her hands; while Sir Charles, "hung over her enamoured," charmed with her sensibility; a sharer in her joy; yet anxiously fearful, lest the excess of it should prove hurtful to her. I never saw the expression of all the various passions a lover can feel so united in one countenance. I begin to think that you and I were but meer sweet-hearts compared to these *loweyers*, an expression I have somewhere read; perhaps when I see you I shall deny the justness of the application. But to proceed. This short digression has given the good folks times to recover a little, and but a little, for their spirits were not easily calmed. Their  
conversation

conversation could not boast of much connexion during the whole day. Nor was the parlour the only seat of joy. The servants, not thinking it proper to enter, flocked about the windows to get a sight of the person they dearly loved. She threw up the sash, kindly expressed the pleasure she took in seeing them all; and made them happy. I could not help thinking of Mademoiselle Scuderi's Carte du Tendre; the whole was displayed among us, there was *tendre sur estime*, *tendre sur reconnoissance*, &c. &c. not even the little town of *petits Soins* was out of our map; Sir Charles converted it almost into a city. At night the fond mother wished her daughter to share her bed, but I opposed it, and desired she might pass the night alone, believing that otherwise a small portion of it would be given to sleep; Mrs.

VOL. II. M Leonard



Leonard acquiesced; and Sir Charles thanked me for my care of his Beloved.

A night's rest was a great refreshment to all our spirits, and enabled us to give Mr. Leonard, who arrived the next day, a calmer reception than he would otherwise have received. He was most sincerely rejoiced to find his daughter, and therein felt some consolation for the disagreeable intelligence he had gained about Miss Sophia. He is informed that her husband's baronettage was borrowed for the occasion; his extraction, not amiss; but not having inherited any fortune, he has, by living some years in good figure, accumulated debts to so great an amount, as makes one wonder at the credulity of his creditors; to satisfy whom, and put himself in cash, he

he has taken up twenty thousand pounds, at a very great premium, on the joint security of him and his thoughtless wife; to be repaid out of her fortune as soon as she is of age, at which time she has a right to demand it.

Mr. Leonard applied to a relation of the sham baronet's, a man of character, and fortune, to assist him in getting the remainder of his daughter's fortune settled on her, on which condition he offered to pay it down directly; and also begged to know whether "the  
"bargain abovementioned had pro-  
"ceeded so far that it could not be  
"broken; as he would very readily  
"allow the young man sufficient out-  
"of Sophia's fortune (I cannot yet  
"learn to call her by her married  
"name) to discharge his debts; and

"set him out properly in the world."  
 The gentleman expressed concern at  
 not being able to do him any service ;  
 but said, " his cousin was obstinate  
 " and head-strong, passionate and  
 " silly ;" (pretty qualities in a hus-  
 band ;) that, " on hearing of his mar-  
 " riage, and his design of anticipating  
 " so great a part of his wife's fortune,  
 " he had offered to endeavour to me-  
 " diate a reconciliation between him  
 " and Mr. Leonard ; who he told him  
 " he thought might, on condition of  
 " his making a proper settlement on  
 " his wife, be induced to advance so  
 " much of her fortune as would suf-  
 " fice to render him easy, rather than  
 " he should procure it by such ruin-  
 " ous means : but the young man only  
 " laughed at him, declaring, he would  
 " never settle out of his power, what  
 " must so soon be his own ; for that  
 " he

“ he should be less a loser by the pre-  
 “ mium he was to give, however  
 “ exorbitant, than by such a settle-  
 “ ment. And that if Mr. Leonard  
 “ was so fond a father as he imagined,  
 “ he should bring him to advance her  
 “ fortune by cheaper means; as he  
 “ should keep his wife in the High-  
 “ lands till it was paid.” The gentle-  
 man answered him, that “ he would  
 “ soon be tired of that expedient, as  
 “ such a situation was ill suited to his  
 “ love of pleasure;” to which the ten-  
 der bridegroom replied, that, “ he  
 “ had not told him *he* should stay  
 “ there any longer than he found it  
 “ agreeable: his wife indeed, was a  
 “ pretty lively girl, and he should like  
 “ to stay sometime with her; but when  
 “ he was tired should return to Lon-  
 “ don; having taken up money enough  
 “ to supply all his expences till she:

“became of age:” His relation added, that “he had endeavoured to shew  
 “him the cruelty of such a proceeding;  
 “but it seemed to have no effect upon  
 “him, and he feared he would keep  
 “his word; for he was as worthless  
 “a fellow as any in the world.”

This was melancholy tidings to a tender parent; who sees no means of of saving his child from misery. He has received a letter from her, asking pardon, with all the common place excuses formed on the irresistible violence of love; how these giddy, shameless girls prophane the word!

Mr. Leonard is in a prodigious hurry to compleat the marriage of Emilia and Sir Charles; he says nothing else can drive his poor Sophia out of his thoughts. Sir Charles you may imagine,



gine, thus authorized, is very importunate; he pleads her father's desire, and shelters himself under obedience to him, against the offence his mistress might take at his too great importunity. Her things are almost ready. She says we have made her too fine; and were determined to mortify her vanity, by making her dress so brilliant, that no one will have any eyes for the wearer; but they are indeed only such as are suitable to Sir Charles's fortune.

The giddy of our sex have the advantage of the graver sort in the few days preceeding marriage; they enter it without apprehensions. I thought matrimony a very alarming state, but my lovely friend is still more serious in her reflexions; and when tête à tête with me, does not conceal the depression

pression of her spirits, though with the family she appears easy and chearful: Indeed I believe her fears vanish at the sight of Sir Charles, as they reasonably may; for except *one*, I never saw a more amiable man; his natural temper seems gentle and tender to a great degree; generous, and open; his conversation and person beyond her description of him. You have seen some of her letters. He adores his Emilia; yet, in the midst of all his approaching happiness he still grieves for his father's death. A young lawyer, on whom he has conferred great obligations, shews his gratitude in the most agreeable manner, having already nearly dispatched the, so often tedious, affair of settlements, wherein Sir Charles's generosity has been restrained within proper bounds by Emilia's absolute commands.

To

## FILIAL DUTY. 229

To all their importunities she now opposes no other delay than your arrival, declaring it a necessary compliment to pay the husband of her friend to wait for his presence, since he had expressed a desire to be at their nuptials ; adding, “ she should be sorry  
“ to have her friends heart at such  
“ a time less satisfied than her own,  
“ and that she knows it cannot be so  
“ in her husband’s absence.”

Once more then let me add, come, my dear Harry ; if your business is not finished postpone it for a few days ; my lovely friend, Sir Charles, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard have promised to go home with us soon after the marriage. I have almost engaged that we will return hither with them, and stay till the trifling alterations making in Sir Charles’s house will admit them

230 THE TEST OF

them to go thither in peace and quiet.  
Do not delay the happiness of so many  
friends, and most of all that of your  
tenderly

Affectionate and

Nov. 3.

Most obedient wife

1769.

C. EDMONBURY.

---

L E T T E R XXXII.

Sir CHARLES LEONARD to Mr. LEWIS.

My dear and venerable friend;

**I** Should ill deserve my happiness  
could it exclude from my thoughts  
a man whom I have so much reason to  
respect and love. You desired me to  
acquaint you with the completion of  
my felicity; had the command been  
less agreeable you might have de-  
pended

## FILIAL DUTY. 231

pended on my obedience; but what can be more delightful, than to tell to one who will share in my joys that my beloved, my inestimable Emilia, is now my own. This blessing was bestowed on me at the altar three days ago, in presence of our best friends. My heart exults hourly in the possession of so invaluable treasure; but you who have had such frequent opportunities of admiring her external charms and internal virtues, will from thence form a more just idea of my happiness than words can give you; yet allow me to say, that it can admit of no increase, but from the visit you so kindly promised; which will give more sublime charms to the spring than all it's vernal beauties. My lovely Emily already thinks her separation from you long and tedious; and I suspect the occasion of my writing this letter, is the only  
one



232 THE TEST OF

oneon which she will yield the pen to me when addressing you is in question, though, except her dearself, no one can with more sincerity assure you of the most perfect esteem and affection than, my dear Sir,

Your most obliged

And obedient servant,

Nov. 14.

1769.

CHARLES LEONARD.

F I N I S,

